

CBJ reserves \$465m at end of 1989

AMMAN (Petra) — Recent monetary talks by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the Ministry of Finance have enabled the Central Bank to increase its foreign currency reserves to \$465 million by the end of 1989, up from \$349 million at the end of 1988, CBJ Governor Mohammed Said Al-Nabulsi said Tuesday. One of the major challenges facing the CBJ today is reducing monetary instability in Jordan and confidence in the Jordanian dinar, which serves as the most important indicator of the national economy, Nabulsi said in a lecture at Yarmouk University. "What is needed today is to replace the bank's foreign currency reserves to enable it to intervene in the market and to have real influence in currency exchange rates," Nabulsi said. The CBJ, he said, is also concerned with helping Jordan in the economic restructuring programme, which entails increasing national savings, reducing excessive consumption, increasing investments and reducing the surplus of the fiscal budget. Nabulsi said commercial banks in Jordan were about to adopt new principles in credit facilities given to the private sector aiming to realize better results from economic projects.

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Badran receives Arafat's message

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office Tuesday Mr. Abdul Razzaz Al Yabari, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Jordan, who was accompanied by Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan. The two Palestinian officials conveyed to the prime minister a message from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat dealing with coordination between the PLO and Jordan in various fields.

Kelly: U.S. committed to peace

ABU DHABI (R) — The United States remains committed to its existing plans for achieving peace in the Middle East, a senior U.S. official visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was quoted Tuesday as saying. The official, WAM news agency said John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Middle East and South-east Asian affairs, discussed the Middle East and the situation in the Gulf with UAE leaders Monday. "He affirmed his country's commitment to peace in the Middle East through Secretary of State James Baker's plan," WAM said.

Mandela backs away from confrontation

PAARL, South Africa (R) — Jailed nationalist Nelson Mandela dodged a row with the South African government Tuesday, saying through a visitor he would not "hang onto the chairs and tables" if he was freed under emergency rule. Anti-apartheid cleric Allan Boesak said after meeting Mandela for three hours at the Victor Verster prison northeast of Cape Town that he expected the African National Congress (ANC) leader would be freed soon from the life sentence handed down in 1964. Boesak said Mandela wanted the three-year-old state of emergency lifted immediately and insisted that all political prisoners should be freed unconditionally.

Kohl calls for talks on monetary union

WEST BERLIN (AP) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl called Tuesday for immediate talks with East Germany on monetary union between the two states, in an attempt to rescue East Germany's crumbling economy and stop the exodus of its citizens to the west. Kohl made the announcement during a meeting with leading politicians of his Christian Democratic Union and the allied Christian Social Union. The chancellor said immediate negotiations on a monetary union were needed because of the "dramatic" developments in East Germany. Earlier, the influential president of West Germany's central bank said it was too early for a monetary union that would make the West German mark East Germany's currency.

Baker in Prague

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel presented U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Tuesday with a proposal for the total withdrawal of Soviet and U.S. troops from Europe. Baker, after a 90-minute meeting with Havel, said the talks had been "very productive" and would be continued when Havel went to the United States in two weeks time. Havel, until recently a dissident leader reviled by Czechoslovakia's former Communist rulers, has already begun negotiations with Moscow about a Soviet troop withdrawal from his country.

Pakistanis stage anti-India protests

JAMMU, India (R) — About 400 Pakistanis demonstrated on the border of India's Jammu and Kashmir state Tuesday but did not attempt to cross, police said. They said the demonstrations were close to the spot where more than 4,000 Pakistanis tried to cross Monday, prompting Indian troops to open fire. India said its troops fired, wounding 10 people, after the Pakistanis set crops ablaze on the Indian side. Pakistan said one man was killed.

ACC summit a door to move closer to council goals — King

AMMAN (I.T.) — The four member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will follow the same course of action which they adopted last year and the Feb. 24 ACC summit in Amman will open a new opportunity to achieve further steps towards the fulfilment of the bloc's objectives, His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday. The ACC members have embarked on action based on solid ground, and succeeded in accomplishing a number of achievements which will eventually lead to many gains for the peoples of the four countries, King Hussein said during a visit to the ACC headquarters in Amman. The King said that the ACC summit in Amman "will witness new moves towards joint action."

Ministry of Labour proposes minimum wages, overtime pay

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — After years of debate and deliberations, the Ministry of Labour has finally taken the lead to set a standard of minimum wages in Jordan but faces opposition from unions which insist the proposed figures are far below expectations. Opposition to the idea also comes from other ministries which feel that this measure will reflect negatively on attempts to solve the problem of unemployment in the country. A proposal which was to be submitted to the cabinet last night by the Ministry of Labour suggested: fixing minimum wages at a rate of between JD 75 and JD 80 a month and 350 fils an hour for overtime. According to Minister of Labour Qasem Obaidat, "this measure would place limits over the number of foreign workers in the country and contribute to solving unemployment." Prime Minister Mudar Badran, in his response to a Parliament debate on the 1990 fiscal budget Saturday, pointed out that Jordan had more than 80,000 unemployed Jordanians at a time when it also employed 175,000 non-Jordanians. Badran said the government intended to organize the King-

dom's labour market to try to employ Jordanians in place of foreign workers in a gradual way. The minister of labour, explained that employers generally paid Jordanian workers the same salaries as foreign labour sometimes as low as JD 30 or JD 40 per month. "Of course our workers cannot accept this kind of salaries," he said. Obaidat told the Jordan Times that the ministry's proposal, if approved, "would force the employers to abide by the minimum wage requirement in these sectors which are still open to foreign labour." According to the minister certain labour employing sectors have been excluded from this arrangement. These include gas stations, offices, secretarial work, stores, factories and street vendors "because we will not issue work permits to foreign workers in these sectors," he explained. Prominent labour unions official, Musa Quwaidar, however, sees the ministry proposal as "not beneficial." Quwaidar told the Jordan Times that wages for labour can only be determined when assessed according to the increase in the cost of living and prices of basic commodities. Minimum wages at this time should be fixed at JD 140 a month "at least" and salaries should be fixed to the cost of living, he said. "Any such step would require detailed and comprehensive study," he added. The union official called for forming a national committee which would bring together economists, labourers and employers "who understand the problems at hand in order to study the situation and make recommendations." The fixing of overtime pay, according to Minister Obaidat, will support the minimum wage of a worker who usually spends longer than the regular eight hours of work a day. "For most workers who spend more than the regular eight hours the increase in payment through overtime could mean a cumulative income of about JD 100 a month," Obaidat said. Besides opposition from trade unions, the ministry's proposal is contested by certain ministries which feel that it will negatively reflect on supply and demand in the labour market. Obaidat said those ministries probably feel that employers, faced with a higher minimum wage, would employ less people thus making the unemployment problem more difficult to solve. The minister admitted that this argument "has some logic to it."



HM King Hussein president by Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin. The minister had already delivered similar messages in Cairo and Sanaa to the presidents of Egypt and North Yemen.

Senate ratifies ACC Charter

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Tuesday ratified the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Charter and referred to its Legal Committee the national budget for 1990 which was earlier passed by the Lower House. In an ordinary session chaired by Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet ministers, the Senate unanimously endorsed the ACC charter and hailed it as a "step towards eventual Arab Unity." Many members, however, aired their views suggesting that the ACC's binding treaty be flexible so that other Arab countries can join the council, which aims, in the long run, at reaching an economic integrity amongst member states. "We would like to propose a shift from unanimity to a majority vote of the founding states as a prerequisite for new entries to the council," said the rapporteur of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, Hamad Al Farhan, after endorsing the agreement. Farhan pointed to the need of including Syria and Lebanon in the economic council in light of the current "chaotic" state of affairs in the region. Founded in Baghdad on Feb. 16, 1989, the Amman-based ACC groups Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan. Farhan also called for some sort of interaction between the ACC and other existing Arab councils such as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab Maghreb Union. "We would like to see the prospect of accepting Kuwait or Saudi Arabia as members of the ACC in return for giving Iraq (for instance) membership in the GCC," Farhan said. In Tuesday's session, the Senate also endorsed a temporary law on abolishing the Amman Development Corporation. The endorsement followed a heated debate on the legality of distributing the corporation's equity. The Senate also ratified a temporary law annulling a law related to the occupied territories' affairs and another one on agricultural marketing.

Jordan, Syria discuss Soviet influx after King's call for summit

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and the two leaders discussed the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Petra said the two leaders also exchanged views on the latest Arab developments and issues which have an impact on the Arab scene. King Hussein, in an interview published Tuesday, called for an urgent Arab summit to forge a unified Arab stand against the snowballing danger of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Palestine. He also called on Arab leaders to open a dialogue with the Soviet Union and the new governments in East Europe because Israel was attempting to exploit the downfall of Communist regimes there in its favour. "The forthcoming summit, which I hope will convene, should be completely different from previous summits, because it should reconsider everything," King Hussein told the editor-in-chief of the daily Al Watan, Jassem Al Muttawa. The Soviet Jews' influx into Israel represents a real danger to the Arab World and its future "which should prompt us to meet at the highest level to discuss this danger in a frank and sincere manner and work out a suitable formula for confrontation," the King said. Israel expects between 300,000 and 500,000 Soviet Jews to arrive in the next three years after the United States limited numbers with a new quota. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that Israel needs to retain the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to settle all the arrivals. A stream of condemnation has come from the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and individual governments urging the Soviet Union and the world's big powers to arrest the flow.

King Hussein said Soviet Jewish immigration "will add to the Israeli strength already realised as a result of support it receives from the Jewish and world Zionist movement, the influence of the extremist Israeli right on the American decision makers — at least in the legislative branch — and the pro-Israel attitudes of the United States." "Where will these thousands settle? At the expense of whom? Who is going to leave to allow them space and in which direction?" the King asked. The King warned that not only the West Bank and Gaza Strip were jeopardised by the new wave of Jewish immigrants, but other Arab countries including Jordan. "The Arab states should inevitably confront this real danger. I think we in Jordan are exposed to this threat as are Syria and Lebanon," he said. The King, noting that Shamir

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Israel toughens policy of sealing Palestinian homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army introduced tougher reprisals Tuesday for stone-throwing in the occupied territories, sealing off rooms in the houses of two West Bank Palestinians accused of wounding Israelis. "The two sealings are a new policy which is going to be used against stone-throwers who cause serious damage," an official military source quoted by Reuters said. The policy, which could affect hundreds of families in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, drew immediate criticism from civil rights groups and liberal politicians, who said the measure amounted to collective punishment. "We would like to propose a shift from unanimity to a majority vote of the founding states as a prerequisite for new entries to the council," said the rapporteur of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, Hamad Al Farhan, after endorsing the agreement. Farhan pointed to the need of including Syria and Lebanon in the economic council in light of the current "chaotic" state of affairs in the region. Founded in Baghdad on Feb. 16, 1989, the Amman-based ACC groups Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan. Farhan also called for some sort of interaction between the ACC and other existing Arab councils such as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab Maghreb Union. "We would like to see the prospect of accepting Kuwait or Saudi Arabia as members of the ACC in return for giving Iraq (for instance) membership in the GCC," Farhan said. In Tuesday's session, the Senate also endorsed a temporary law on abolishing the Amman Development Corporation. The endorsement followed a heated debate on the legality of distributing the corporation's equity. The Senate also ratified a temporary law annulling a law related to the occupied territories' affairs and another one on agricultural marketing.

In the nearly 26-month uprising, the army has razed or sealed hundreds of homes to punish Palestinian activists suspected of fire bombing or serious attacks. But the penalty was not usually used for stone throwing, the most common tactic of teenagers at the forefront of the revolt. Also Tuesday, merchants in the West Bank town of Ramallah closed their stores to protest the death Monday of 15-year-old Ayman Jubran who, according to reports, died in a fall from a roof as he was chased by Israeli soldiers. In the West Bank city of Nablus, Mustafa Abed Kulab, 45, was fatally shot in the neck Tuesday, reports said. Mustafa, a bus driver, was dead on arrival at Nablus' Itihad hospital, doctors said. The reports initially said that Kulab was shot by Israeli soldiers, but more complete information indicated he was shot by an Israeli driver after his fuel truck was stopped. The army confirmed the death but said its troops were not involved. The Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (Al Haq), an Arab group based in Jerusalem, said at least 130 Palestinian houses had been sealed totally or partially during the first two years of the uprising. Some 270 other houses had been demolished. Israeli member of parliament Dedi Zucker said: "These steps are officially legal, but practically unjust."

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police investigating an attack on an Israeli bus have found a passport used by a suspected assailant, and security forces have been mobilised in the country's hunt for the attackers. Newspapers reported Tuesday that copies of the passport photograph were distributed and a dragnet spread for the document's user and another suspect. Police sources said several people had been questioned about Sunday's attack that killed nine Israelis. But a senior police official, Bahaeddin Ibrahim, denied a report by the Middle East News Agency that one of two masked men who attacked the bus with automatic fire and hand grenades had been arrested. The state-owned Cairo newspaper Al Gomhouriya quoted an unidentified senior security official as saying authorities had "new clues" and expected to arrest the assailants within 48 hours. He gave no details. Police sources said security measures were tightened after the ambush in sensitive places frequented by foreigners, particularly Israelis. These included hotels and residential districts such as Maadi, a southern suburb where

Egypt spreads dragnet for suspects in bus ambush

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Tripartite talks postponed

JEDDAH (Agencies) — The foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt and Israel have postponed a planned meeting to discuss Middle East peace, Egypt's Foreign Minister Essam Abdul Meguid said Tuesday. The delay is "because the current situation requires more contacts and bilateral consultations that will take some time," he said here upon arrival. He did not say if the recent attack against an Israeli bus in Egypt that left nine Israelis dead scuttled the meeting that press reports said was scheduled for Sunday in Geneva.

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Gorbachev gets backing against hardliners

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev won backing from colleagues against a hardline onslaught on his radical calls for democracy and an open economy at a key Communist Party meeting Tuesday. But fierce exchanges pushed debate at an officially-styled history-making plenary session of the party's central committee into a third day. Reports by TASS news agency of speeches at the meeting showed sharp differences. But a senior Soviet spokesman predicted the outcome of the meeting would strengthen Gorbachev's position. When debate opened on Monday, Gorbachev offered party members a blueprint to reshape Soviet society, ending the Communists' automatic right to rule and clearing the way for a multi-party system. Soviet officials involved in organising the meeting gave no reason for extending it into Wednesday. But TASS reports of speeches underscored sharp differences, with at least one hardliner accusing Gorbachev of taking the country close to anarchy and a reformer calling for an end to the party's monopoly on power. Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, often tipped as a possible less radical successor to Gorbachev, backed the reform project set out by the party chief and state president. Delegates said even conservative standard-bearer Yegor Ligachev spoke up for it, though a TASS summary of Ligachev's speech contained no such reference. Participants had said they believed the central committee would agree to Gorbachev's proposed repeal of Article 6 of the Soviet constitution, which guarantees the Communist Party the leading role in all aspects of society. Gorbachev said the party should be forced to compete for leadership of the country, even against alternative political parties. But Ivan Shinkov, a member of the party's auditing commission, said: "The majority of the members believe that no laws and no changes in the constitution should shut off the authority of the party." Shinkov, interviewed when he stepped onto Red Square during a break in the closed-door meeting, said the session broke up for the night instead of concluding as scheduled Tuesday because committees continued to work out conflicts on Gorbachev's platform proposal. The session has taken on crisis proportions because of the worsening Soviet economy and a rise in ethnic unrest throughout the country. It follows the sweeping changes across East Europe that have radically altered formerly orthodox socialist governments.

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Naccache reportedly linked to release of U.S. hostages

PARIS (AP) — Iran has linked freedom for Anis Naccache, imprisoned in France for the attempted assassination of a former Iranian prime minister, to the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon, a newspaper reported Monday.

The conservative daily Le Figaro reported in a full-page article that President Francois Mitterrand might reduce Naccache's sentence from life to 20 years, enabling him to be freed in 1991 after 10 years imprisonment.

Le Figaro cited sources close to the Foreign Ministry as saying U.S. President George Bush related Iran's conditions to Mitterrand for intervening with Iranian-backed extremist groups in Lebanon believed to be holding the captives.

"President Bush personally telephoned Francois Mitterrand to inform him of an unexpected change during talks that the Americans held with Tehran to obtain the liberation of their countrymen," the newspaper said.

"The name of Naccache suddenly appeared from the Iranian negotiators, who made the release of their protégé one of the conditions for a favourable outcome of the discussions," the newspaper said.

Bush asked Mitterrand whether the Naccache affair might soon be settled, Le Figaro reported.

"The French leader answered that 'nothing remains in the way any longer and that the release of the American hostages could be an extra reason to move things along,'" the newspaper said.

Le Figaro did not specify when the conversation took place but said Mitterrand's response had reached Beirut at the end of last week via the United States and Tehran.

The story was the latest report in the French press that Naccache will be freed after he recently ended a 19-week hunger strike protesting his continued incarceration.

Naccache and senior Iranian officials claim his release was part of the 1988 deal that won release for all French hostages then held in Lebanon. French officials deny that Naccache's release was part of the package.

The weekly newspaper Le

Canard Enchaîné reported last week that Mitterrand would free Naccache this year. The French leader's promise was transmitted to Naccache by way of "the highest Iranian leaders," the newspaper said.

Naccache's lawyer Jacques Vergès has said Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and spiritual leader Ali Khamenei ordered an end to the strike, in which Naccache was kept alive by occasional intravenous feedings.

Mitterrand had said during the long fast that he might consider releasing Naccache, but not under the pressure of a hunger strike.

Naccache, born in Beirut in 1951, led an assassination squad in a failed 1980 attack against Shapur Bakhtiari, Iran's last prime minister before the Islamic Revolution of 1979. Bakhtiari was injured but two other people were killed.

At Naccache's trial two years later, both prosecution and defence lawyers said Naccache acted under orders of senior Iranian officials.

Eighteen Westerners are believed held by pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim groups in Lebanon, including eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Italian and an Irishman.

Thai team to visit S. Arabia on goodwill mission

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai officials will fly to Saudi Arabia in an effort to repair relations frayed by the killings of three Saudi Arabian diplomats here last week, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

A delegation was to leave for Saudi Arabia Wednesday, said an official at the ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Deputy Foreign Minister Prasap Limpabandhu told reporters he would brief the Saudi Arabian government on the investigation into the murders and express concern over current relations between the two countries.

Following the killings, the Saudi Arabian government stopped issuing visas to Thais seeking employment in the Gulf Kingdom, where some 150,000 Thais are employed.

Thai authorities have been unable to solve the shooting death of a fourth Saudi diplomat in Bangkok in January last year.

The slayings, which may be related to the Thai labour flow to Saudi Arabia rather than international politics, have strained otherwise close ties between the two countries.

Prasap said he was carrying a letter from Prime Minister Chatichai Choonbavan to King Fahd. Accompanying Prasap is police Maj.-Gen. Chalov Kerdtes, who arrested a Thai charged with stealing jewelry worth \$20 million from the palace of Prince Faisal Ibn Fahd in Riyadh last year.

"We hope that when we inform the Saudi Arabian government of our intention to find the culprit as soon as possible and of our concern for the safety of its diplomats in Bangkok and what we have done so far, this will make the government understand Thailand better," Prasap said.

Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetisa said Monday that Saudi Arabia regards the deaths of the three diplomats last Thursday as having badly affected relations between the two countries.

A Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry official who flew to Thailand told Siddhi last Saturday that his government was very dissatisfied with investigations by Thai authorities into the murders of the diplomats last year and this year, Siddhi said.

Christians have long history of blood feuds in Lebanon

NICOSIA (AP) — The fighting between rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and militia warlord Samir Geagea is one of the bloodiest feuds in the seemingly endless power struggle that has long splintered the Maronite Catholics, Lebanon's dominant Christian sect.

Police say over 210 people have been killed and nearly 1,000 wounded since Tuesday amid widespread destruction.

Since the civil war began in April 1975, the Christians have sought to present a united front against the Muslims and leftists, who have been supported for much of the time by Syria, Iran and Libya.

Unlike the constantly squabbling opposition militias whose vendettas have repeatedly erupted into pitched battles in Beirut and South Lebanon, the Christians have largely been able to paper over their disputes. But they have never been able to completely mask their rivalries.

The Maronites are the only Christians in the Middle East who have ever held power. But their days may now be numbered as they fight among themselves, ringed by hostile Syrian-backed forces in an enclave north of Beirut.

Although Maronites have dominated the army, government, parliament and judiciary since independence from France in 1943, the military has largely stayed out of the civil war.

It did not seriously get embroiled in the bloodshed until last year, when Aoun, the army commander, ordered his troops into action against the Syrians as well as sporadic clashes with Geagea's powerful Lebanese Forces (LF), the Christians' main militia.

Aoun considers himself the only legitimate authority in Lebanon after outgoing President Amin Gemayel appointed him interim prime minister in September 1988 — even though a new president, Elias Hrawi, was elected last November.

Key Maronite families

The power struggle in the Christian camp has centered on the three key Maronite dynasties, the Gemayels, Chamoun and the Franjies.

Each had their own private armies and controlled lucrative rackets and political influence in parliament. Each of the families

produced presidents. The rivalry between these clans has claimed hundreds of lives in the last decade and a half. Like the unending internal conflicts in the opposition camp, the violence underlines the fragility of the concept of nationalism to which all the factions have traditionally avowed allegiance.

The Falangists of the late Sheikh Pierre Gemayel first clashed in earnest with the Tigers militia of former President Camille Chamoun in February 1976, 10 months after the civil war broke out.

That confrontation was quickly suppressed, but the seeds of future bloodshed were planted.

As the civil war dragged on, the Gemayels moved to seize control of the Maronite camp. Gemayel's charismatic youngest son, Bashir, emerged as their military leader and in 1978 he began to eliminate his rivals.

Bashir's first target

His first target was the Franjies, who controlled a fiefdom in north Lebanon with its capital in the mountain town of Zghorta.

The Franjies were blocking Falangist efforts to muscle in on their rackets in the north and were allying themselves with the Syrians. Scores of militiamen were killed in shootouts.

On June 13, Bashir sent a 100-man force to attack former President Suleiman Franjeh's summer palace at Ehden, 105 kilometres north of Beirut.

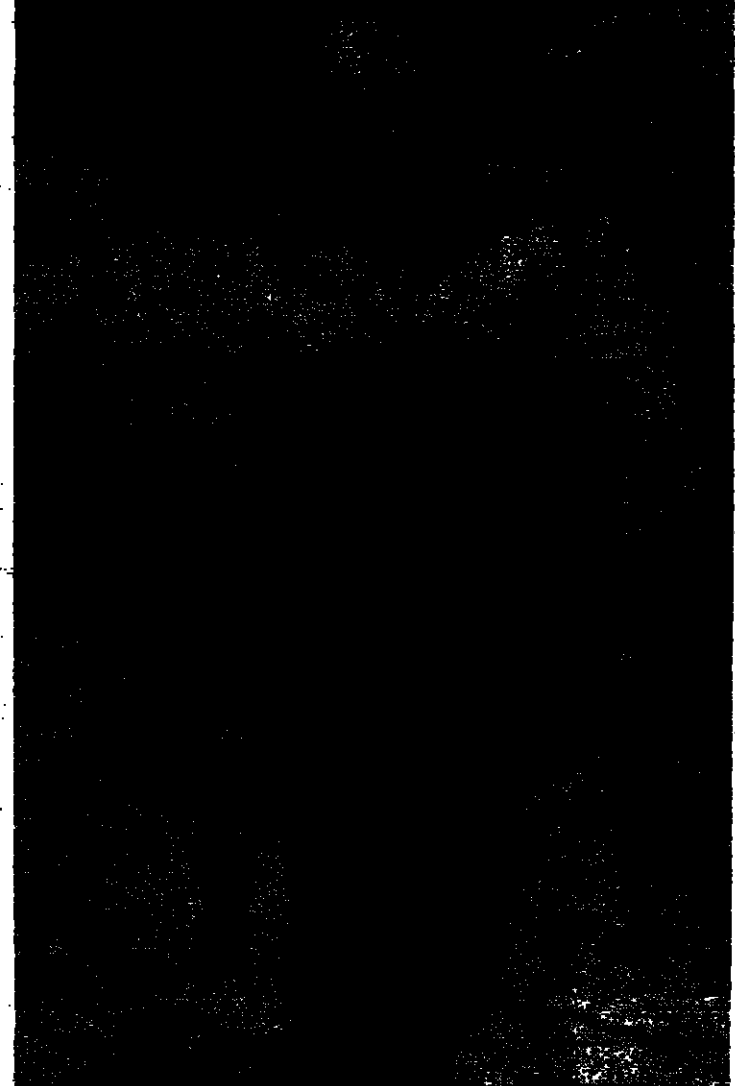
The pre-dawn assault was led by a young former medical student and policeman's son who had impressed Bashir with his ruthlessness. His name: Samir Geagea.

The Falangists slaughtered Franjeh's oldest son Tony, his wife Vera, their three-year-old daughter Jehane and 30 bodyguards.

Tony Franjeh was his father's heir apparent, a member of parliament and commander of the clan's militia, the Marada, or giants.

His father vowed revenge. In February 1980 a car bomb killed Bashir's daughter, Maya, and seven Falangists. More than 300 Falangists were killed in the months that followed.

By 1980, Bashir had forged the Falange and other Christian groups into the Lebanese Forces as the Maronites' strike arm and



A frightened father carries his two small children to safety after shells crashed near his house in west Beirut.

But he was assassinated by a bomb at Falange headquarters nine days before he was due to be sworn in. His brother Amin was elected in his place.

Bashir's assassination threw open the doors of sectarian hatred again. Falangist militiamen slaughtered hundreds of Palestinians in Beirut's Sabra and Chatila refugee camps in an orgy of revenge.

In January, 1986, Geagea, now Lebanese Forces chief of staff, teamed up with Gemayel to oust the militia's commander, Elie Hobeika, after he signed a Syrian-backed peace treaty with opposition warlords. More than 350 people were killed.

A year ago, Aoun moved against Geagea to curb his growing power. At least 62 people were killed in three days of fighting in east Beirut.

Aoun came out on top, but failed to crush Geagea completely. After months of skirmishing, they are now locked in what appears to be a fight to the death.

Police said more than 300 people were slain. Chamoun's son "Dany" Maimed 330 people were slaughtered.

Bashir was elected president in September 1982 following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the opposition appeared ready to deal with him.

Hrawi envoy gets embassy in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Secret service agents seeking to end a dispute between rival Lebanese factions Friday entered the Lebanese embassy in Washington and gave control of the building to the representative of President Elias Hrawi, the State Department said.

The action was taken at the request of Hrawi's government but the former ambassador, Abdallah Boubabib, had already vacated the premises of both the embassy and the ambassador's residence, spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters.

Boubabib, who has been Leba-

non's envoy here since 1983, represented the interests of General Michel Aoun, the Lebanese military commander who has refused to recognise Hrawi's legitimacy as the country's official leader.

Boubabib filed suit last week against the State Department, aiming to keep Bassam Namani, the new charge d'affaires appointed by Hrawi, from evicting Boubabib.

Tutwiler said members of the uniformed secret service "opened the embassy compound, secured it and turned control of it over to the charge."

"This action came after U.S.

District Court Judge Harold Greene dismissed the former Lebanese ambassador's suit to prevent the United States government turning it over to the new charge," she said. The United States recognises Hrawi's government.

The U.S. ambassador to Syria, Edward Djerejian, Monday urged all Lebanese parties to support Hrawi's government and called on General Aoun to step aside.

"We deplore General Aoun's irresponsible use of the Lebanese Armed Forces to achieve his personal ambition. He should step aside," Djerejian told reporters.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

S. Yemen to allow press freedom

ABU DHABI (R) — Marxist South Yemen plans to allow freedom of the press ahead of a planned merger with the North, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper said Tuesday. Al Itihad daily quoted South Yemeni Culture and Information Minister Ahmad Garboun as saying a press law would be passed in two weeks. The law would guarantee press freedom and independence from the government and allow publication of independent newspapers that could be owned by individuals. Aden, after years of hardline Marxist rule, is liberalising its political system ahead of proposed unification with North Yemen later this year.

Rafsanjani sends message to Oza

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani sent an aide to Ankara Tuesday with a message for Turkish President Turgut Ozal, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported. It gave no details of the message carried by Alineza Moayeri, Rafsanjani's adviser for international affairs. A high-level Iranian delegation visited Ankara last week for preliminary talks ahead of a session of their joint economic commission in Tehran later this month.

Snow forces Kabul airport closure

KABUL (R) — Heavy snow and poor visibility forced Kabul Airport to close Tuesday, one day after it was hit by rebel rockets. Witnesses said four rockets hit the airport tarmac Monday afternoon, and a state airline Ariana plane revving up for takeoff to New Delhi cancelled the flight. Passengers who had travelled from Dubai were put up at a local hotel.

Iraq backs Saudis against terrorists

BAGHDAD (AP) — President Saddam Hussein has declared solidarity with Saudi Arabia and called for "tougher and unified" Arab action against terrorist attacks on Saudi diplomats around the world. In a message broadcast by the official Baghdad Radio, Hussein told King Fahd that Iraq "wholeheartedly supports" Riyadh and called for "an effective Arab action against the attacks." Unknown assailants assassinated three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok Thursday. Saudi newspapers have blamed Iran, which is locked in an religious and political dispute with Saudi Arabia.

Iraq ready to launch satellite

ABU DHABI (R) — Iraq has built its own satellite and will launch it soon following last year's test of a carrier rocket, an Iraqi official was quoted as saying.

"I am pleased to announce the Iraqi space satellite is ready for launch," Amer Hamoudi Al Saadi, under-secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation, was quoted as saying by the United Arab Emirates magazine Airforce.

Last December, Iraq launched a 48-ton, three-stage rocket, dubbed Al Abed (the whopper), making it the first Arab country to possess such a home-produced ballistic missile.

Both the United States and Israel, which sent its jets to destroy an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, expressed concern that Baghdad might use its new technology for military purposes.

Saadi described the U.S. response as "unstudied and emotional."

The magazine, to be published later this week, quotes Saadi as rejecting what he called Western claims that Baghdad had foreign help to make the missile and satellite.

"In the beginning, we wanted such assistance but we found all doors closed in our face," he said. Saadi did not say which countries were asked for help.

He said Iraq started building Al Abed after the end of the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988.

Jordan-Syria contacts

(Continued from page 1)

has said that the West Bank and Gaza Strip should be part of "greater Israel," commented: "Israel has gone ahead with its schemes and escalated its statements which I think it means it will not quit any inch of the (occupied territory) which it says is the land of Israel. These Israeli practices constitute a danger no less than that of the Jewish immigration."

He also warned against the perils involved in Israel contending that Jordan is a substitute homeland for the Palestinians.

"I think Israel is implementing this blueprint... I think between 45,000 and 46,000 Palestinians have been allowed to leave the occupied territories but were prevented from returning," he said.

Turning to Eastern Europe, King Hussein said: "The radical change in Eastern Europe has also involved a change in policies with former approaches being rejected at the time being. This could benefit Israel. It is inevitable for us to open a dialogue with the new leaderships in Europe on the basis that what they complained about in the past is what we ourselves are suffering from now."

King Hussein said that in talking to Moscow, "we (Arabs) cannot say to it that it should not allow its people to exercise their rights, but at the same time we should warn against the dangers besetting the rights of Palestinians and the Arabs on their soil."

In Tunis, Arab League officials said an Arab delegation would visit Moscow, Washington and Ireland, the current chairman of the European Community, to try to counter the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Another group of ministers will tour Arab states to raise financial contributions to support the intifada, they said.

Arab foreign ministers — from Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Syria and Tunisia — decided during a meeting in Tunis Monday night to dispatch the delegations.

The EC has voiced concern over the Soviet immigration to Palestine.

"The twelve members of the European Community are seriously concerned at recent suggestions that immigrants to Israel may be settled in the occupied territories," said an EC statement released in Amman.

Egypt spreads dragnet

(Continued from page 1)

many Israeli diplomats live, they said. At least two additional plainclothes security men were seen outside Cairo's main synagogue downtown.

A security alert at airports and sea ports remained in effect to prevent possible attempts by the suspects to leave Egypt.

Government newspapers Al-Ahram, Al-Akhar and Al-Gomhuria published largely similar reports about a police search for two people with Jordanian passports suspected of carrying out the attack. Al-Ahram said police suspect the passports are forged.

A spokesman at the interior ministry, which is responsible for internal security, refused to discuss the newspaper reports. "We will talk only after making arrests," he said, indicating that no formal arrests or charges have been made.

But the spokesman indicated that a number of people were detained for questioning, and police sources who demanded anonymity said two people are being held. They include a Palestinian believed connected with the ambush itself but not as an attacker.

Talks postponed

(Continued from page 1)

prepare the way for the first-ever direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Israel's hardline Likud party conference to put the finishing touches to the stance Israel would take to the meeting was postponed after the bus attack.

Abdul Meguid arrived in Saudi Arabia to attend the celebrations Wednesday marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), which is headquartered in Jeddah.

Israeli Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, leader of a hard-line faction in the Likud bloc, called Tuesday for Egypt to be excluded from Middle East peace contacts, saying Cairo backed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Sharon, a former defence minister, spoke to reporters after he and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rescheduled a Likud bloc showdown on Israeli strategy for next Monday.

The party meeting had been planned for Wednesday, but was postponed in deference to the Israelis killed in the bus attack.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:55 Children's programme
17:20 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:30 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Arabic programme
22:00 News in Arabic
22:30 Play "Petr"

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:30 News in French
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 The Nut House
22:10 Doc. "Animal in War"
22:30 News in English
22:50 Homage

PRAYER TIMES

05:03 Fajr
06:22 Sunrise
11:50 Dhuhr
14:51 Asr
17:18 Maghreb
18:37 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Thomistic Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 772261.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 62543.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 583326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
The Kingdom will be affected by a depression accompanied by a cold front. Thus it will be cloudy and rainy with a chance for snowfall in the

northern and southern mountains. Winds will be southwesterly fresh. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with possible thunder showers and winds will be southerly fresh and sea rough.

Amman Min./max. temp. 17/23
Aqaba 3/18
Dera'a 2/10
Jordan Valley 7/14

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 10, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 62 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751
Dr. Salah Ali Zayed 790677
Dr. Hussein Al Oudom 640324
Dr. Abdul Raziq Tayem 629115
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637025
Nasrallah pharmacy 629672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 640945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Abdul Majid Sabahin (—)
Al Shamsa' pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halasa (—)
Khaliq pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 52, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 893390
Public Security Department 631221
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467.
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 731111
Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381232
Stanley Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akhil Maternity 642442
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mishin, J. Amn. 656140
Palestine Shmeisani 661714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Musallab Hospital 6872219
The Islamic, Abdulla 6612157
Al-Ahli, Abdulla 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Arzy Marka 87611715
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983322
Zarqa National Hospital (09)270171
Im Sam Hospital (09)86752.
IRBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Im Al Nafes Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)
09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:05 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Dhaka, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 London, Zurich (RJ)
10:30 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 Frankfurt (LF)
12:00 Damascus (RJ)
12:05 Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:10 Jeddah (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Riyadh (RJ)
12:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Damascus (RJ)
13:05 Kuwait, Dhaka (RJ)
13:10 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:15 New Delhi (RJ)
13:20 Frankfurt (LF)
13:25 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
13:30 Riyadh (RJ)
13:45 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
14:00 Riyadh (RJ)
14:05 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
14:10 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
14:15 Cairo (RJ)
14:20 Chicago, New York, Vienna (RJ)
14:30 Riyadh (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25 Dubai (AZ)
08:05 Cairo (MS)
08:10 Jeddah (SV)
12:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (Y)
13:00 Baghdad (LA)
13:30 Baghdad (LA)
13:40 Kuwait (KU)
14:10 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
14:30 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
15:00 Frankfurt (LF)
15:20 Damascus (RJ)
15:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
15:35 Riyadh (RJ)
15:40 London (RJ)
15:45 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
15:50 Riyadh (RJ)
15:55 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
16:00 Damascus (RJ)
16:05 Kuwait, Dhaka (RJ)
16:10 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:15 New Delhi (RJ)
16:20 Frankfurt (LF)
16:25 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
16:30 Riyadh (RJ)
16:45 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
17:00 Riyadh (RJ)
17:05 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:10 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
17:15 Cairo (RJ)
17:20 Chicago

Debt accord with Soviets seen as highly favourable

By Ghader Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Officials and economists Tuesday welcomed Jordan's debt rescheduling agreement with the Soviet Union for \$214 million due in 1989 and 1990 as a highly favourable accord, especially that it provides Jordan with a new export market for its products.

"It is a very good agreement, especially that no major immediate cash payment is involved and a new market will be open to Jordan's goods," said Taher Al Masi, former deputy prime minister of state for economic affairs who led a delegation to Moscow in August last year aimed at rescheduling the Kingdom's 1989 and 1990 debt. Masi, now a member of the Lower House of Parliament, only reached an agreement in principle at the time.

The rescheduling agreement, reached after a week of talks between a visiting Soviet delegation and Jordanian officials and signed Monday, stipulates Jordan would pay the Soviet Union \$168 million over 12 years at five per cent interest, with a six-year grace period during which the Kingdom would only make interest payments.

The highlight of the agreement, according to economists, is the Soviet acceptance of \$42 million in Jordanian exports — \$22 million in rock phosphates and the rest in white cement, refrigerators, stoves, chemicals, shoes, detergents and clothes. This opening into the Soviet market is seen as an excellent opportunity for Jordan to develop trade with the Soviet Union. At present the Kingdom does not export anything to the Soviet Union.

"From a first look, the agreement is excellent for Jordan," economist Faleh Panek said Tuesday. "This should set an example for other (creditor) countries."

Analyst Jawad Anani agreed. "This agreement is tantamount to a new market which promises to expand. Forty-two million dollars (in exports) is a hefty amount," he told the Jordan Times.

In addition to accepting \$42 million in goods, the Soviet delegation also said Moscow was ready to consider importing Jordanian fruits and vegetables from next year, according to officials.

The sole provision for immediate cash payment is for a Jordanian remittance of \$4 million in interest to the Soviet Union by March 15, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The agreement was signed late Monday by Finance Minister Basel Jaradat and Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations V.F. Moldvinov, who headed the Soviet side in this week's talks in Amman.

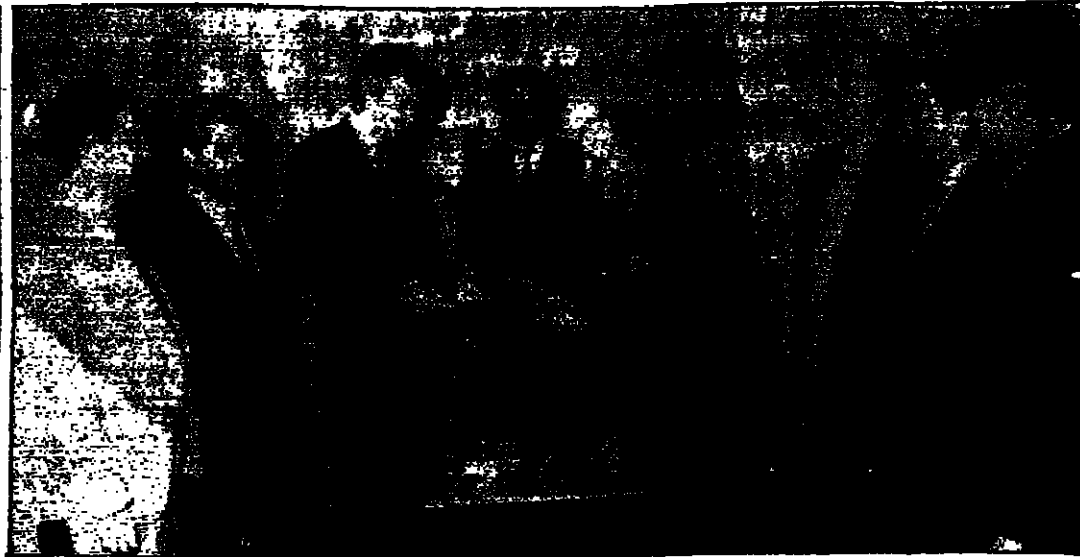
Official sources estimate Jordan's total debt to the Soviet Union at about \$700 million. Ninety per cent of the amount represent military purchases by the Kingdom, according to a source.

"The bulk of the debt was incurred during 1984 when the Kingdom purchased Soviet equivalents of the American Hawk missiles, ZSU," according to the source. Jordan again turned to the Soviet Union, in 1987 after the U.S. Congress vetoed an \$1.8 billion arms sale to the Kingdom, and acquired a major air defence system.

Earlier attempts to reach agreement with the Soviet Union were stalled because Moscow had insisted on payment in cash for the 1989 installment while Jordan wanted an agreement along the same lines as accords reached with the Paris and London clubs. "The two sides could not agree on the percentage of (Jordanian) exports to the Soviet Union on the Soviet demand for cash payment," a source said earlier.

The agreement with the Soviet Union is part of the Kingdom's rescheduling strategy for its \$8.3 billion foreign debt. It has already reached agreements with the Paris Club of creditor nations and the London Club representing commercial lenders.

Masi said the accord with the Soviet Union was along the same line as agreements with the Paris and London clubs which Jordan had sought during his talks in Moscow in August.



Jordanian journalists and activists Tuesday present a memorandum to the Soviet embassy asking Moscow to stop the influx of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine (Petra photo)

Jordanians submit appeal to Soviets to stop Jewish influx

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of Jordanian journalists, intellectuals and trade union activists called at the Soviet embassy in Amman Tuesday and submitted a memorandum appealing to the Soviet leadership to stop the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and urging Moscow to help find a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The group was welcomed by the embassy chancellor, who received the memorandum and promised to convey its contents to Moscow.

The chancellor expressed his view that any solution to the immigration problem could only be part of an overall solution of the Middle East conflict and achieved through an international agreement.

The Soviet Union, which is advocating respect for human rights, cannot violate such rights by stopping migration, he told the group. But, he added, his country was trying to find solutions to various world issues in coordination with other nations and within the framework of international laws.

The memorandum delivered to the embassy said that the influx of Jewish immigrants to Palestine "poses a grave danger to the

legitimate and national rights of the Palestinian people and is bound to cause a serious demographic imbalance in favour of the Zionist enemy, whose actions are being condemned by the Soviet Union," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The memorandum also noted that the continued influx of Jews to Palestine "will provide Israel with huge manpower, enabling extremist elements to help establish the so-called 'greater Israel'," Petra said.

Among the memorandum's signatories were Parliament members and heads of various public sector organisations and professional associations, according to Petra.

The memorandum was submitted one day after a public rally was held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), during which prominent public figures, Parliament members and heads of trade unions and journalists discussed the question of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine.

The rally also discussed ways in which the media could tackle the issue and focus attention on the dangers inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories.

PNC appeal

Eighty-five Palestinian leaders Tuesday signed a petition to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev urging him to halt the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"Stop this exodus as soon as possible," said the petition signed by members of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile. The council has 430 members.

"In the name of human rights, we call on you to quickly intervene... to stop Soviet Jewish exodus, which is considered another Jewish invasion of our homeland," the petition said.

The petition was signed at a meeting chaired by PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh. It also called on international circles and human rights advocates to "apply pressure on the United States so that it would halt its financial, military and political aid to Israel."

"Our own refugees, who have spent most of their lives scattered around the world without a home, have the priority over Soviet Jews to return to their homeland, Palestine," the petition said.

Farmlands face grave saline water danger

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 6,000 dunums of farmland in the Ramleh district of the Jordan Valley face a growing danger resulting from a high rate of salinity in irrigation water pumped to the area by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Petra quoted JVA Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani as blaming local citizens for damaging facilities used to drain saline water. In a statement carried by Petra, Bani Hani said the JVA was preparing tender documents for a project aimed at dealing with the problem.

According to Bani Hani, the JVA had installed a 2.5 kilometre-long plastic pipe to drain saline water away from the region and to prevent its mixture with fresh water being used for irrigation. Saline water appeared as JVA teams were drilling an artesian well and the installation

of the plastic pipe was aimed at preventing the saline water from mixing with fresh water, Bani Hani explained. He said that the pipe succeeded in draining away most of the saline water, leaving only fresh water for irrigation. But, he said, local residents damaged the pipe soon afterwards by firing at it or blocking it with stones. "This deliberate sabotage caused saline water to reappear in the irrigation water, prompting an outcry on the part of the farmers and vegetable growers," Bani Hani said.

A Korean firm was approached in 1988 to find a solution to the problem after it had succeeded in handling a similar problem at Wadi Al Arab near Irbid, the JVA chief said. At that time the cost was estimated at JD 307,000 plus JD 170,000 for replacing the plastic pipe with iron pipe, he said.

"The delay in implementing the project was the result of an insistence by the former minister of water and irrigation that proper tender documents be prepared before floating a tender," according to Bani Hani.

He said the documents were still being prepared. "A feasibility study was being conducted. But the two-year delay will make the project very expensive since earlier cost estimates were made before the devaluation of the dinar and the prices of pipes have also gone up since then, he said. Meanwhile, damage continues to be done due to farmlands in the area, Bani Hani said.

Local farmers were quoted as saying by Petra that they had complained to the concerned authorities and to the Prime Ministry, but no solution had been found, pending the implementation of the JVA project.

Quantity of destroyed food in 1989 doubles

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply Tuesday announced that nearly 20 per cent of food stuffs that were to have been offered to the public last year had been destroyed after being found unfit for human consumption.

A ministry statement said that in 1989 the ministry destroyed 72,869 kilograms of food supplies, almost double the quantity destroyed in the previous year because they were found to be unfit for human consumption.

The statement said the main reasons behind food going bad were improper storage, poor refrigeration, and damp atmosphere in stores.

Pricing process started

In a separate statement, the

ministry announced that it had started pricing food supplies lying in warehouses prior to releasing them to their importers.

The delay in pricing was at the heart of a dispute between the Supply Merchants Association and the ministry, prompting an intervention by the Lower House of Parliament, which set up a committee to help resolve the dispute.

According to the ministry statement, the JD 1 million worth of supplies included cheese, canned meat, tuna, sardines, vegetable fat, mortadella, and soup.

The statement said that a 15 per cent profit would be allowed to wholesale and retail dealers of the supplies.

RSS disposes of ammonia cylinders

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has begun disposing of damaged ammonia cylinders, some of the full of the gas, at an area in the suburbs of Amman, and the process is expected to end by Wednesday, Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin said Tuesday.

The RSS is conducting the disposal work employing new techniques which would prevent any leakage of the dangerous gas, which might harm the citizens living within that area, Amin was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Originally the plan was to remove the cylinders and dispose of the ammonia gas by boring the cylinders and allowing them to cool in freezing water — a procedure normally adopted by the Civil Defence Department and the Armed Forces whose advice was sought for the process, Amin said.

The governor said a resident near the disposal area reported the presence of several cylinders, some of them containing ammonia and belonging to the Naber Company, in November last year. The cylinders were found not far from residential quarters, and the Civil Defence Department suggested that the cylinders, each weighing 30 kilograms, be removed to an outlying area, some five kilometres away from the site, where the process of cooling could be carried out. Amin said that the cylinders were being moved to a new area, where moving the cylinders could cause leaks that would endanger people's lives and undertook the process of disposing them through new techniques, he added.

Canada to boost aid by 15 million dollars

AMMAN (J.T.) — The president of the Petro Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAC) will visit Jordan later this month to sign a two-year agreement on increasing Canadian aid to the Kingdom, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said Tuesday.

The announcement was made following a meeting between Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Taher Al Taher and Canada's ambassador to Jordan, Michael Bell.

Under the projected agreement, Jordan will get an additional 15 million Canadian dollars in aid to help the Kingdom's oil and natural gas exploration work, the statement said.

In 1988 the Canadian government decided to offer Jordan a grant of 19 million Canadian dollars to assist the Kingdom's oil exploration effort. But, during a visit to Canada last year, Natural Resources Authority Director Kamal Jreissat discussed with officials in Ottawa prospects for raising the assistance to 32 million dollars.

Petro Canada also announced that it would help Jordan work on seismic exploration activities in the Al Risha area northeast of Jordan. Jreissat and other officials attended Minister Taher's meeting with Ambassador Bell Tuesday.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Tree-planting celebration at Tareq

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday took part in a tree-planting celebration held at the scouts forest near Tareq town. A total of 500 tree saplings were planted during the celebration, which was organised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in cooperation with the Rotary Club and other organisations in Amman.

Pesticides, insecticide banned

AMMAN (Petra) — Two types of pesticides and one insecticide have been banned in Jordan. Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat said in a statement that pesticide Dimethoat was not suitable because of a faulty combination of its ingredients, and Sandofan was banned because of failure to register its patent. "Roser" insecticide was banned for two years but no reason was given. The minister said all quantities of banned pesticides would be removed from the market and destroyed.

Women's role in environment protection

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in a seminar entitled "The role of Arab women in protecting the environment," which started its meetings in Tunis Tuesday. Taking part in the five-day seminar are officials and experts representing several Arab and regional organisations in addition to representatives of women movements. The seminar, which is organised by the United Nations Development Programme in cooperation with the general secretariat of the Arab League, will discuss several working papers dealing with efforts exerted by Arab countries in the field of environment and the prospects of the participation of women in protecting the environment, the role of the mass media in spreading awareness on environmental issues and the role of women in protecting natural resources such as water, energy, agriculture produce and animal wealth and promoting their role in dealing with chemical substances.

Painting exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of paintings by Alia Ammura, Nabila Hinni and Nawal Abdullah opens at six p.m. today, Wednesday Feb. 7, at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. The watercolours, collages, drawings and gouaches exhibited range in style from the figurative to the abstract.

The show will continue until the end of February, (daily from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. except Fridays)



Solitary musician — Patrick Lama

By Nelly Lama

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Composer and pianist Patrick Lama has come to Amman from Paris to perform a few pieces of his compositions at a piano recital to be held tonight at the Philadelphia hotel at 8:00 p.m.

The recital is part of a programme offered by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation on the occasion of the 12th meeting of the Arab Academy of Music and the first forum of the International Music Council.

Born in Jerusalem in 1940, Patrick Lama began to study music with his father, Augustine Lama, the late composer and organist of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Patrick Lama received a scholarship from the French government in 1961 which allowed him to pursue his musical studies there.

He studied piano playing with professor Marcel Ciampi of the National Conservatory of Music in Paris and attended the school of Marguerite Long. He went on to study composition with Henry Dutilleul in the Ecole Normale de Paris and directing orchestras with Pierre Dervaux.

During the years 1975-81 he wrote a book, "Popular Palestinian Music," after extensive research. He heard recordings of traditional music and transcribed it, made a technical analysis of it and then moved on to a comparative study between it and classical Arab music, which is based, mainly, on four notes. "There are subtle differences in between the notes that make all the difference. Occidental classical music does not have that sort of rendering," he explains.

He made analytical studies on the "Sacre du Printemps" of Stravinsky.

He spent the rest of his life

composing and performing his compositions on piano.

He also wrote music that accompanies a poem, for a mezzo-soprano vocalist and four instruments, an aboe, flute, clarinet and piano. He has started to cooperate with his "more technical" brothers in the use of computers to help him document and hear his compositions, regardless of the number of performers.

He explains his musical style: "Some people don't seem to understand my music; it is not fluid, it is not too melodious. Arabs seek the Arabism in my work in vain because my approach and authenticity lie more in my being modern, but the fact that I come from the Orient cannot but give my music Oriental overtones."

"One of the works I will play, however, is a fragment of a popular melody originally played on the Arab flute, Shabtabeh, which covers a wide range of nuances. I try to recreate the nuances on the piano by developing a range of different structures into a form of variations and giving it an overall contemporary style. Some think that traditional Arab music is simple, repetitive and boring. We must not have complexes vis-a-vis our musical culture. Traditional music might be repetitive but we must listen in to the small changes that occur intermittently and that give it its vitality. This sort of concentration should be done with utmost sensitivity, but above all with intent rationalism."

Some Arab musicians question his use of a Western instrument. "Why not the ud?" they ask. He replies: "The piano is considered to be a Western instrument, but I say it is an instrument used in the West and it does not mean that we cannot use it in our own way, and produce through it sounds that are compatible with our Oriental character. Why buy a fridge and a car and scream scandal at a piano? I sound a note of defiance

to such claims. We must profit from those things that are external to our culture. We can use an instrument that is well-built and has lots of potential like the piano and bring out of it a personal colour. We live in the 20th century. We cannot and should not do the same type of music as in the past; imitating becomes a caricature. We should create something modern."

Lama says he believes in working hard to reach a high standard of performance and creativity where one retains his spontaneity and keeps the rational part alive, especially when one seeks to innovate and create a modern oeuvre.

Approached by different musical institutions in Finland, the U.S. and Italy, where he performed his music to willing ears, Lama feels that the highest honours were bestowed on him by his own father when he had heard his music and had called it "a serious composition." For an 86-year-old composer specialised in church music to have cut through the modernism of such work and reach the core is admirable. But the feeling is mutual. Patrick Lama now looks back at his father's compositions with great respect. "He was so meticulous and organised. He was my first teacher and I still feel his influence on me," he says.

Another point the father and son have in common is their solitary existence. They live only for their music. Nothing else matters. To be known is the last thing on Patrick Lama's mind although compliments like "you are the Bartok of the Middle East" conveyed to him by a leading music critic in London leave him grinning and satisfied. Quality is what he seeks and if people trace that in his work, why not? When he is asked to play in public he responds to the call, and is soon itching to go back to his piano to continue his work.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Cheroun, Mezghel, Moushineh, Fianchou and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An architectural exhibition by Ja'far Touqan at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- ★ A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

CONCERT

- ★ A concert by pianist and composer Patrick Lama at the Philadelphia Hotel — 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ A German film entitled "Bilder einer Jähre" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ A French film entitled "Le Sauvage" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Blood knows no colours

THE ATTACK on the Israeli bus in Egypt on Sunday drew mixed reactions ranging from outright condemnation and repudiation of its rationale to utter praise and justification. The fairest of these reactions is, however, the one which calls for equal treatment between the killing of civilian Arabs, notably Palestinians, and the killing of Israeli civilians. When the international community and above all Israel itself starts to condemn the killing of civilian Arabs, whether in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or elsewhere in the Arab World, and begins to take effective measures to stop such killings, then and only then the Israelis can be entitled to sympathy and understanding of the entire world, including the Arab countries. As things stand now, the killing of Palestinians goes on as a daily basis without ever hearing any effective voice from the Israeli establishment criticising such slaughter much less condemning them. And as long as Israel maintains its faithful adherence to its prejudiced and ridiculous standard of paying no attention to Arab blood spilled by its military machine, and goes on equating one Israeli civilian casualty with scores of Arab civilian casualties, then it cannot possibly expect to earn the sympathy of the Arab side or ever ask Arab troops to be shed whenever one or 10 Israeli civilians get killed.

Admittedly the killing of Israeli civilians will play very well into the hands of Israeli extremism, notably among the Likud constituency, and raise in the process very formidable obstacles in the path of the fragile peace process. But the same can be said for the Arab side as well. Whenever Palestinians get killed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip while waging their basically peaceful intifada, the forces of extremism on the Arab side will also enjoy a field day and they in turn end up forging an impenetrable obstacle to the projected process of dialogue and negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. Seen against this backdrop the real villains behind the killing of Israeli civilians, whether in a bus or walking down the streets of Jerusalem or Palestinians simply aspiring for recognition and negotiations with Tel Aviv, are those Israeli forces which have frustrated one peace process after the other.

This is not to suggest that anyone would want to encourage or promote the continuation of the killing of civilians whether Israeli or Palestinian. Far from such a posture, it is rather the call for equal treatment for Palestinian civilians who go on getting murdered every day without as much as causing a wink among many Israeli hardliners or much concern among the traditional friends and allies of Tel Aviv. Now is therefore time for the international community to stand up in mass and call for an effective halt to the killings on both sides and the beginning of genuine negotiations with the explicit purpose of achieving real peace between them where cooperation and friendship would reign supreme.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday commented on a visit to the army headquarters by the cabinet and parliament members and said that the audience now has a better idea about the immense responsibilities shouldered by the Armed Forces which serve as a shield protecting the nation. The paper said that the Armed Forces are a source of pride for the Jordanian people for their persistent and firm stand in their defence of the Arab countries and for their perseverance in the face of challenges and dangers. What the army commanders talked about was an explanation to the whole nation about the army's preparedness to defend the homeland and about the needs of the Armed Forces and the requirements which can be met only through the assistance of Arab states which also benefit from the Armed Forces services, the paper said. The paper said Parliament members who later urged Arab states to come to the aid of the Jordanian Armed Forces, expressed deep pride and confidence in the country's preparedness and continued military training which can thwart enemy ambitions and conspiracies. The paper said the Jordanian Armed Forces should acquire all possible help from the Arab states so that they can pursue efforts to defend the homeland and the Arab order.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper tackles the incident in which Arab and Egyptian commandos attacked a bus carrying Israeli tourists in Egypt. Tareq Masarweh asks how can the Israelis continue their atrocities in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and kill innocent children and walk freely in Arab cities? Why should the Israeli crimes be considered legitimate while the Arab reaction is considered criminal? The writer says that the Israeli media is continuing a propaganda campaign against Egypt and the Arab Nation, forgetting that Israeli soldiers daily kill and wound innocent Palestinians. He says that Israel continues to justify its demolishing of homes and killing of children and does not want the Arabs to justify the anger and the reaction of the oppressed people and even those Egyptians who are not happy in seeing their kinsmen in Palestine being slaughtered every day. The writer says that the Israelis kill after their own fashion, and they should expect a similar attitude from the Palestinians and all Arabs.

Al Dustour daily commented on His Majesty King Hussein's statement to a Kuwaiti Arabic daily in which the King warned the Arabs of the current events in the Middle East in general and referred to the Jewish influx into Palestine in particular. The paper said that this danger and this challenge should be at the top of the list of Arab priorities and must be dealt with in a collective manner. The paper said that the new immigrants are bound to be settled on occupied Arab land with detrimental consequences to the peace prospects and the national interests of the Palestinian people. The King pointed out that the Arabs ought to end the war in Lebanon, find a solution for the conflict in Sudan and bring about a lasting peace in the Gulf so that they can have sufficient time and resources to deal with the new situation in the occupied territories.

The world at a major turning point

By Leo Mates

WE ARE ENTERING 1990 more apprehensive and also more hopeful than we were at the start of past years.

Latter-day developments in the world have been quite overpowering and the prospects looked bleak, more and more so. But this year we have a special reason for feeling anxious. There is a growing feeling around the world that we have not only seen the end of just another year, but that we now face a turning-point of major consequence. Apart from it being a question of the current predominantly political developments in the world, it is also a question of the longer-term expectations of mankind on the threshold of the XXI century.

In the context of current developments, the past year was characterised by an unusual concentration of events in all three parts of today's world. Momentous changes, virtually unimaginable until recently, are fast becoming a reality. They began with a growing tendency towards a resolution of local and regional conflicts which involved the world's leading powers. As East-West tensions relaxed in the very centre of the global confrontation on European soil, the post-war divisions and disintegrative processes became less and less pronounced. The dialogue on arms proceeded in harmony with overall political relations. In the second half of the past year, this course of development influenced surprisingly dynamic changes inside the countries of the Eastern bloc, and these, again, were strongly reflected on general trends in the world.

In global terms, the changes in Eastern Europe have been the most far-reaching. In one country after another, drastic evidence emerged of the incompetence of an arbitrary state-administered system that posed as a concrete realisation of Karl Marx' vision, while in reality it was a form of government forcibly imposed by a minority which proclaimed its unlimited authority as the will of the people and interests of the working class. But this fact does not really merit special attention any more. A point of far greater interest is that the collapse of a system which had appeared to be so stable, occurred so very quickly and on the strength of such a broad popular consensus, and that it was effected in such a close sequence of events.

There can be no doubt at all that the initial impulse came with the launching of political changes in the Soviet Union by Mikhail Gorbachev. But neither was that a coincidence, for Gorbachev, endowed with intuition, an above-average sense of realism and personal courage, was able to

draw the proper conclusions from his country's economic stagnation and Soviet society's moral degeneration over the past decades. Thus enlightened and using his authority he launched a drive to lead his country out of the crisis it confronted. In this way, he created two necessary preconditions for the mystification upon which the regimes in Eastern Europe were based to be dispelled. The first was the demystification of the infallibility of the party and the regime and the exposure of the weaknesses of the entire social system in those countries. The other was the elimination of fear of a Soviet intervention in the event of the implementation of the necessary reforms on democratic principles.

These two preconditions dispelled all fears and the blindness, and just like in one of Andersen's tales the people regained their sight and realised that the emperor had no clothes on him. But this time it was not a naive boy from a fairy tale that shattered the illusion, but the leader of one of the world's leading powers. When this happened developments little by little gained momentum and scope like a rolling snowball growing into an avalanche. Quite in keeping with this metaphor, the events gained in magnitude and speed. The changes which even before this demystification had taken several years in Poland and, under that impact, a few months in Hungary, took only a few days in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania.

The events in Eastern Europe, initiated under the influence of the developments in the Soviet Union, contributed for their part to the acceleration and radicalisation of the processes in the Soviet Union. At the same time, the turmoil in the eastern part of the old continent fundamentally altered East-West relations, as vividly illustrated by Shevardnadze's courtesy visit to NATO headquarters in Brussels. This spectacular gesture merely confirmed the opening of a new era in East-West relations already clearly manifest in the pulling down of the Berlin Wall and settlement of a number of conflicts in different parts of the Third World. This course of development is no less significant for the fact that many conflicts are still unresolved and that others, beyond the range of the East-West controversy — like the U.S.-Panama conflict, are being exacerbated.

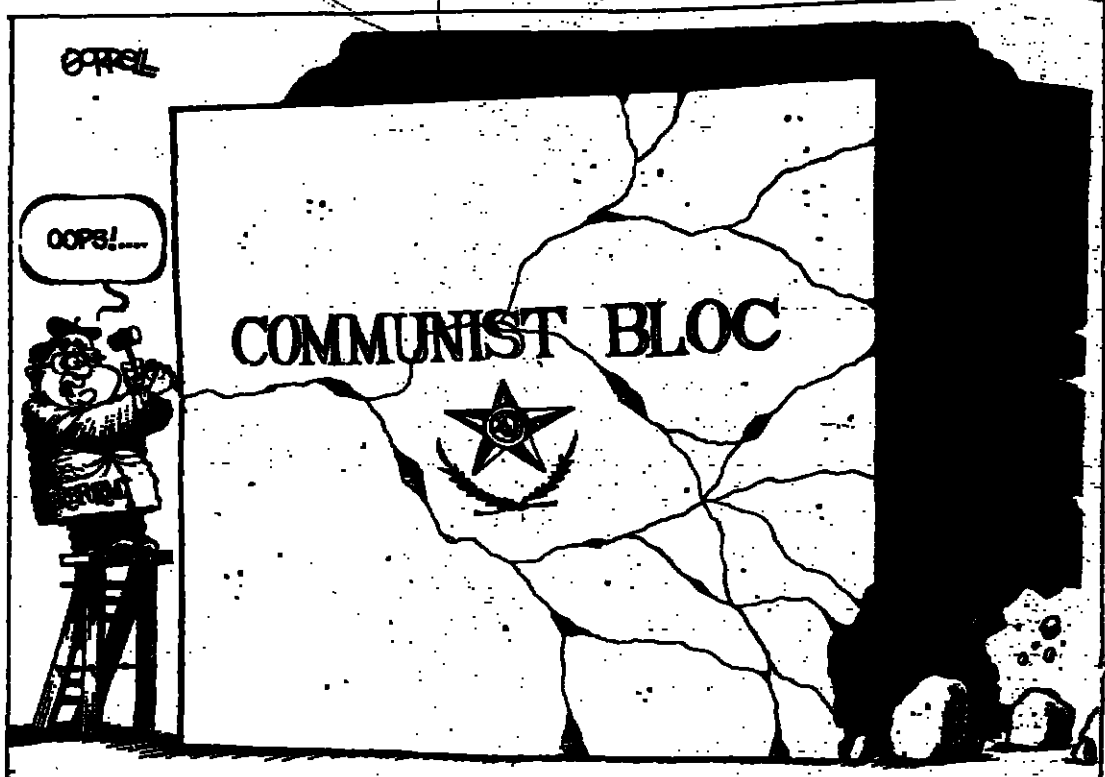
From the point of view of the United States, the confrontation with the Soviet Union had been the dominant problem only a short while ago, but now the definition of the main problem is changing. Its one-time primary concern for military supremacy in

the competition with the Soviet military arsenal is now giving way to economic competition with rival powers, principally Japan and West Europe. On its home ground, the struggle against alleged communist subversive activity is giving way to the fight against drug traffickers, also a high priority in the international sector. Pinochet and similar military tyrants and "anti-communist" fighters are not interesting any more, and the focus of action in the hemisphere is being moved to the northern part of Latin America from where drugs come.

The other parts of the Third World have thereby been relieved of the dangers concealed in the conversion of the world into an arena of big-power confrontation. The countries in those vast regions can now breathe a sigh of relief, but in this new situation there is even less readiness than before to extend economic aid which past rivalry had stimulated to a certain measure. On the other hand, the developed countries are showing an incomparably greater will to direct aid to the East European countries to support their democratic changes. Once again it is being shown that economic aid is all the more generous for, having a stronger political motive.

As can be seen, the priorities and the development of international relations have undergone a dramatic turnaround. However, the past year marked the beginning of the transition to a longer historical period. Formally, this is connected with the imminent passage into the twenty-first century — into a new millennium. But few people today attach any particular significance to the formal beginning of a new millennium. Today, the new century is anticipated as a symbol of the great leap from the kingdom of necessity, in which man wore himself out to ensure his existence, into the kingdom of freedom in which machines will produce whatever is necessary, including themselves, manage artificial intelligence — all of this in the service of man.

This aspect of the turning-point is also connected with the events of the past year. Anyway, the past year has given us plenty of reason, regardless of its millennial location, to regard it as a year with exceptionally numerous signs that we are at the end of one era and about to enter another one which we expect to be better than our current experience. Yet it would be futile to talk about the world as a homogeneous whole, even though all its parts are fatefully bound together because of the global repercussions of major events, wherever they may happen. Unfortunately, this negative interconnection and interdependence,



ence, if we may say so, does not mean that any positive development proceeds in a synchronous or even in an approximately identical manner throughout the world. This is best illustrated by the fact during a period of maximal acceleration of material development, after the Second World War, in the second half of this century, the disparities between the individual parts of the world increased, not diminished. Accelerated development did not bring a unification, but rather it enhanced differences. This is particularly true of the three main regions, but it is also true of the sub-regions in each of the three worlds.

The development in Europe, after the industrial revolution, launched a relatively small part of mankind, Europe, into the orbit of power and influence which led to ever greater differences and to more unequal relations than ever before. This most highly-developed part of the world expanded but remained a privileged minority in the world. It does not represent mankind but it determines the fate of all and sundry, irrespective of the arguments, protests and calls for equal treatment of those less developed.

The most highly-developed part of the world also introduced new forms of social organisation and life. The entry into the modern era was hailed in that environment as the beginning of a millennium of prosperity and happiness, as the end of man's arduous fight for survival. Soon enough this was shown to be an illusion and a fallacy. Man cele-

brated his victory over nature "seizing" its laws and subjecting them to his interests and will. But these naive estimates proved to be sheer illusions. In addition to the already existing problems industrialisation brought new, more formidable ones. Human relations became encumbered with ever deeper inequalities and conflicts of interest, which arose from the unavoidable division into managers and producers in industrial society.

The increased capacity of production of material wealth came nowhere near the level of production that would be capable of resolving the material problems of mankind equitably, but it greatly increased the stakes over which a battle was being waged in the sphere of distribution in society. This became an increasingly brutal struggle which increasingly relied on violence in international relations and also within individual societies. It spurred all kinds of mass and well-organised crime. A sense of meanness and insecurity developed in the highly-developed countries on the basis of major changes in social and economic status. First, there was a mass conversion of primary agricultural producers into industrial workers after which came another change: "industrialisation" with increased productivity and the expansion of services. All these changes were accompanied by increased unemployment, physical and status mobility and social insecurity.

Such a dynamic development of the infrastructure caused large revolutionary movements in the developed world, which aspired

through energetic political action to rectify this state of affairs and to improve the position of those at the bottom of the social ladder. But as has been shown in the last years of this century, the past year in particular, these efforts were futile. The position of the socially threatened groups became even worse in countries in which attempts were made to resolve in an arbitrary fashion by political means problems which had deeper roots and which had marked industrial society. It now appears to be a passing phase from the generally low productivity level of pre-industrial society which is yet to come and in which prosperity will be based on reasonable cooperation with nature, not on abuse of natural resources and labour, typical of existing industrial society.

But this transition is today a matter of interest only for that minority of mankind that lives in the developed countries. Apart from this section, countries which will succeed in joining the process of development conducive to post-industrial society likewise have a chance. This leaves a large part of mankind without any prospect of joining this leap into the future within a foreseeable period. This part of humanity is therefore destined to be the most difficult existential and ethical problem of our age; the material means for this majority to share with the others the benefits of a happier future exist but only on the assumption of the rich showing the necessary goodwill instead of pursuing their short-sighted egocentric interests.

Baker faces tough issues in Moscow talks

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As revolutions rock East Europe and some Germans demand reunion, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker embarks on a diplomatic journey this week that tests the superpower's influence on the fast-paced events.

In Baker's bulging briefcase are a dozen tough problems, ranging from the German issue and the sometimes nasty turns the changes in Eastern Europe have taken, to the lingering 12-year war in Afghanistan between the Soviet-backed Marxist government and Western-backed Muslim rebels.

The centerpiece of Baker's nine-day trip, which began Monday, is a face-to-face session with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev toward the end of the week in Moscow. That will give Baker a firsthand account of the course the Kremlin is taking on German reunification and of how Gorbachev is addressing Soviet political and economic problems. Rumours last week that Gorbachev might surrender his post as general secretary of the Communist Party at a central committee meeting renewed U.S. interest in his personal fate and the course of Soviet reform.

Baker and President George Bush, both whom have hailed Gorbachev and his reforms, are making a calculated effort to bolster the Soviet leader as he tries to overcome resistance to his programme of perestroika. Baker is taking new offers of technical cooperation to Moscow, and in three days of talks with Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze hopes to remove some of the remaining roadblocks to completion of a treaty to reduce U.S. and Soviet long-range nuclear missiles, submarines and bombers by 30 per cent to 50 per cent.

The idea is to have a treaty ready for Bush and Gorbachev to

sign at a Washington summit meeting in June. Baker's talks with Shevardnadze, which begin Wednesday night, are intended as preparations for the event.

Baker also is prepared to extend the promise of trade privileges, provided the Soviets codify their recent easing of emigration restrictions.

At the same time, though, the Bush administration has to assess ways of encouraging democratic trends in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the event Gorbachev's powers ebb.

There seems to be little doubt, however, that the Bush-Baker team is determined to cooperate with Gorbachev. The question that hangs over Baker's mission, apart from the slow response of the Soviet economy, is how much influence the two superpowers working together can have on world events.

The accelerating drive by East and West Germans to form one country again — and the tremors this causes among some Europeans — apparently is only slightly responsive to U.S. and Soviet wishes.

Gorbachev last week softened his opposition, saying unification was not in doubt but must come as part of a revision of Europe's political and military structure.

But West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Saturday flatly rejected a Soviet proposal that Europeans and North Americans vote on whether German unity should be allowed.

Baker, meanwhile, reiterated U.S. support for reunification but steered clear of picking and choosing among the approaches that have surfaced.

Among them is one by Hans Modrow, the East German premier, for a neutral, single state that would belong neither to NATO nor the Warsaw Pact, and another by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher that would keep Germany in NATO but leave the East Ger-

man region demilitarised.

Baker met with Genscher on Friday night on the German question and planned a session with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at Shannon airport in Ireland early Tuesday while Baker's jet is being refuelled.

Pursuing a fast pace, Baker will then fly to Prague for 27 hours in the capital of Czechoslovakia, the central European ally of the Soviet Union that is in the midst of an untroubled transition to democracy.

During that brief visit Baker will meet with President Václav Havel and other leaders of the new government and make a speech in which he is expected to strengthen his qualified endorsement of a 35-nation European summit meeting this year — a Gorbachev formula for easing East-West tensions.

Bush set the tone for Baker's trip in his state of the union speech with a proposal to cut U.S. and Soviet troops in Europe to 225,000, with a limit of 195,000 in Central Europe.

That meshes with calls on Gorbachev by Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary to remove Soviet forces — and with Gorbachev's apparent willingness to comply — while leaving tens of thousands in East Germany.

On Saturday, at the end of his Moscow visit, Baker will make an unprecedented appearance and answer questions before the 44-member international affairs committee of the Supreme Soviet, the nation's chief legislative body.

He will make a brief opening statement and then answer questions for 90 minutes in the presence of U.S. and Soviet reporters.

On the way home, Baker will stop in Ottawa, Canada, to attend a meeting Feb. 12-13 of NATO and Warsaw Pact officials to discuss an "open skies" proposal that would open U.S. and Soviet territory to over-

West German press looks East to huge new market

By Richard Meares
Reuters

BONN — East Germans who flocked to the West when the Berlin Wall opened last November were greeted with cheers, kisses, flowers — and free newspapers.

West German papers, packed ever since with news from East Germany, worked flat out to produce special editions within hours to welcome the visitors.

Now they are trying to turn a publisher's dream — the emergence almost overnight of millions of potential new readers — into reality by taking the news to East German homes.

"West German papers stand an excellent chance of getting into the East German market," said Hans-Wolfgang Pfeiffer of the conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine.

Late in January, five West German lorries headed over the border to deliver the first East-West German newspaper to 180,000 Leipzig homes in time for breakfast.

Wir in Leipzig (We in Leipzig), carrying mostly local news and advertising ranging from West Germany's national airline, Lufthansa, to local barbers and hotels in the city underlines the problems and advantages in gaining a foothold in the East.

With 32 pages, it is four times the size of East German dailies, which are kept thin by an acute paper shortage that also ensures demand is never satisfied.

But for the proposed price of 2.5 East German marks — the pilot edition was free — an East German could buy his subsidised paper for two weeks.

East Germany's political and economic future is uncertain, so the big West German publishers are concentrating for now on promoting awareness of their titles.

They are also answering calls by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and

other politicians to fill an information void caused by years of rigid media censorship. The East German opposition alleges that the Communists still manipulate the media.

The glossy weekly news magazine Stern is sending a special edition to a million East Germans to guide them through the bewildering array of parties fighting the ruling Communists in first-ever free elections in May.

Munich's Sueddeutsche Zeitung, founded in 1944, now produces a cheap weekly paper to help visiting East Germans understand West Germany as well as all the changes at home.

"The 1948 blockade against the free world has finally been lifted," West Berlin's Tagesspiegel says in an advertisement. "And you can help your friends and relatives keep informed more independently — a basic requirement for democratic life."

It and most major West German newspapers now sell subscriptions for the papers to be sent to East Germany.

The service started after tests showed East German customs officers had begun to ignore the still technically illegal import of most Western publications. Some 50,000 a day are sent.

Western publishers have had little incentive to sell papers or magazines for East Germany, which they could not reinvest inside the country and which are worthless abroad.

But a law permitting foreign investment, approved by the government on Jan. 25, appears to give much wider scope for foreign ownership than originally planned.

Christoph Kasch of Gruner und Jahr, the giant Hamburg publishing house that produces Stern and other popular weeklies, said: "We could launch our own magazine or perhaps take a share in an existing one."

West Berlin's leftwing "alternative" daily, Tag, said:

"We are already planning further steps in East Germany, from setting up an East German editorial team to printing and selling the paper in the land of now unlimited possibilities."

Local papers along the border now report from neighbouring East German districts which their readers often know very little about — one travel supplement was entitled: "Unknown neighbour opens its doors."

Some also sell copies in the East, on the street or even at bakeries. The country has about 300 news agents, compared with West Germany's 80,000, and most papers are sent by post.

As the two Germans move ever closer, media experts here predict big West German papers like the Frankfurter Allgemeine, the centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung and the liberal Frankfurter Rundschau will dominate the national market.

"But East Germany's newspapers will do well, as long as they adapt," said Werner Bader, of the International Association of German-Language Media in Cologne.

Many have already changed, by reporting more openly and even taking advertising, but most papers are still owned by the Communist Party.

It is considering handing some over to non-party ownership, but journalists at one paper, Das Volk (the people) in Erfurt, decided not to wait. They declared editorial independence and gave it the more traditional name Thüringer Allgemeine.

The other newspaper, East Germany's first independently owned paper, has just hit the streets as a bright tabloid weekly. It is funded partly by West German gifts and loosely backs the opposition New Forum.

"Local papers in the East will also have a very good market among emigrants who settled in West Germany but want to keep in touch with home," Bader said.

Fighting the odds in the desert

By Jerome Koechlin

AL AYUN, Western Sahara — Far from the eyes of the world in a desert of sand and rocks, a nasty little war has been waged for over a decade. This is Western Sahara, locked at the south of Morocco with endless miles of sand dunes to the east and expanses of salt water — the Atlantic Ocean — to the west. More than a year ago the United Nations voted to implement a referendum for the self-determination of Western Sahara, but the polling which will enable about 75,000 Sahrawis to decide whether they want to be Moroccans or be independent has been postponed.

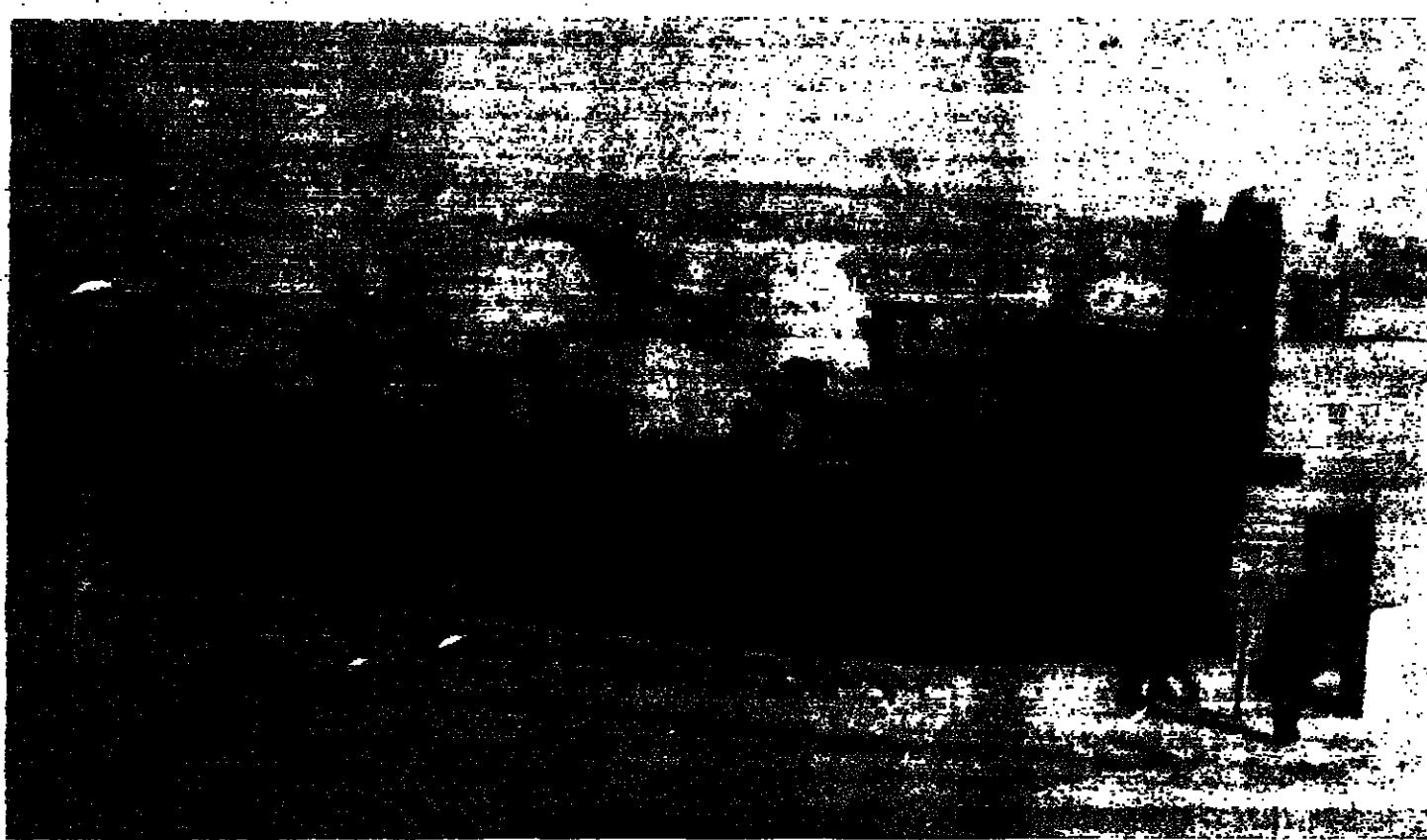
Meanwhile, the Western Sahara guerrillas calling themselves the Polisario Front are mounting sporadic attacks against the Royal Moroccan armed forces entrenched behind their 2,500-kilometre-long "desert wall" of barbed wire, mines and fortifications with electronic sensors designed to contain Polisario attacks.

Things are not going too well these days for the Polisario. Victims of the recent rapprochement between North African countries, it is increasingly alone and lacks resources. Its history is one of defiance by a small minority. Colonised by the Spanish in 1884, Western Sahara was taken over from Spain by King Hassan of Morocco in 1975, but the next year the Polisario proclaimed the birth of the independent Sahara Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). For a while the world listened, despite several international incidents during which the Polisario shot down small, unarmed civilian airplanes: the U.N. General Assembly in 1977 called on Morocco to end its "occupation" of Western Sahara, and by mid-1988 a total of 71 countries had recognised the SADR.

The biggest blow to the Polisario has been the resumption of diplomatic ties between Algeria and Morocco in the spring of 1988 and the creation of the Maghreb Arab Union in February 1989. Algeria and Morocco now have a number of joint projects, including the construction of a pipeline to carry Algerian gas to Spain via Morocco.

Pushed into a small corner of Western Sahara by the 80,000 Moroccan soldiers manning the defence wall, the Polisario is also plagued by internal problems: Polisario Front leader Mohammed Abdul Aziz was recently forced to denounce the tribalism and erring ways of the revolutionary movement. Several respected fighters, including military chief Ibrahim Ghali, were removed. Worse still, prominent Polisario member Omar Hadrami, who was the movement's representative in Washington, defected to the Moroccan side last August.

Rich in phosphate and iron ore deposits, Western Sahara has become politically important in Morocco as a symbol of the nation's strength and unity behind the king. To King Hassan, the Western Sahara question is vital: "The Sahara is a part of us and we are a part of the Sahara," he said. "This whole question is part of my life, day and night. I know the whole story back to front, to the extent that if every grain of Sahrawi sand were given an identity card, I would remember all their numbers. But if we have to pull out, we will pull out all together. We'll cut the telephone



One of many Moroccan army posts in Western Sahara; since the troops built a sophisticated "Wall" in the desert, attacks by the Polisario guerrillas have been largely ineffective (WNL).

lines, we'll sever all the communication lines and block up all the wells. We'll take all our vehicles back and give weapons to the population."

Meanwhile Al Ayun, the capital of Western Sahara and a garrison town of about 120,000, has developed substantially thanks to the estimated \$1 billion invested by Morocco since 1976. Projects include a \$400 million investment in phosphate production and fisheries.

From his portrait that hangs in every government office, the king looks down on Hajir Waly, secretary general to the governor of Al Ayun province. In a recent interview, Waly was unequivocal: "The Polisario is just a pack of thieves; the whole thing was a political game. The majority of the Sahrawi population is integrated in Morocco. This is all just a tragedy-comedy and we should have seen the last of it at the time of the 'Green March' in 1975, when 350,000 Moroccans came to take possession of the territory under the nose of the Spanish." This move sent about 300,000 refugees into Algeria where they remain and are taken care of by the U.N. High Commission for Refugees. Algeria had never liked the idea of a "Greater Morocco" and for a while gave open support to the SADR.

The Polisario's current chief Abdul Aziz, who took the lead in the summer of 1988, is the son of a former officer in the Royal Moroccan forces. There are no reliable figures on the number of his followers, but discussions with Al Ayun residents show that many of them support King Hassan's strategy. Sube Ibrahim, a modest trader at the harbour, and a member of a local nomadic tribe, explained: "We are all Moroccans, there is no doubt about it. We will win the referendum, it will just be a formality."

Nomadic traditions are still Sahara. Caravans of camels are very much a part of the landscape, although today, camels graze near factories and have to watch out for cars. For most of the Sahrawi tribes who have roamed the desert for centuries, borders mean nothing.

When the colonial powers — France, Britain, Portugal, Germany and Spain — carved up Africa, they drew straight lines on a map. Most Sahrawis at the time had never seen a map and it is hardly a surprise that to this day, they have little respect for the borders between Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania.

The fighting over this desert land about one-and-a-half times the size of France has cost many lives. Reliable statistics are not available, but the Polisario claims to have killed 5,673 Moroccan soldiers between 1982 and 1985. Bashir, 23, has fought with the Polisario for five years; his older brother is the movement's representative in New Delhi. Speaking in a low voice as he sits before his glass of mint tea in Al Ayun, he confides: "Western Sahara is our land and the Moroccan presence is an insult to the Sahrawi people that have been oppressed for the past 14 years. God willing we will be free and independent by next year."

When he first started, Bashir was conducting sabotage operations on Moroccan infrastructure. Now he spends his time dodging the police and security controls while spreading the Polisario propaganda. "We will never give up. If necessary, we will continue to fight at all levels," he insists.

Ahmad Samri, 30, who works in the Royal Air Maroc airlines office in Al Ayun does not agree, although he used to support the Polisario. "It was fashionable among university students," he says. To him, there is nothing to gain from an independent Western Sahara: scarce resources, a sparse population and the added disadvantage of having to start again from square one after a Moroccan withdrawal. "As far as I am concerned, the Polisario Front doesn't really exist," he adds. "Now and again, you hear about skirmishes along the wall, but the Polisario is not at all representative of the Sahrawi people. The people don't care, they follow their camels and don't

bother about politics or the borders drawn in straight lines through the desert."

A U.N.-sponsored peace plan to which both Morocco and the Polisario formally agreed in August 1988 called for the referendum idea to be implemented, but fierce fighting between the Moroccan forces and the Polisario in September 1988 shattered the precarious cease-fire. Later, mediation by the President of the Organisation for African Unity, Moussa Traore, that followed a series of talks organised by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia finally secured a direct meeting between King Hassan and Polisario representatives in January 1989. A proposed second meeting has yet to take place.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is said to plan a visit to the area in early 1990 with the aim of furthering the process that will lead to the holding of the referendum and put an end to this "war of the sands" — World News Link.

Comedian Fellag pokes fun at Algerian taboos

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

ALGIERS — The rolling eyes, elastic face and chaplinesque quirks of comedian Mohammad Fellag have Algerians in stitches — in a country that badly needs a laugh.

"I don't spare anything," said Fellag with an impish grin after another packed house in the posh Riadh Al Feth recreational complex.

Fellag, 39, has made artistic history in Algeria by breaking one taboo after another in one-man plays that combine slapstick with sharp political satire.

Nothing escapes his wit, be it sex, religion, censorship, the one-party state that ruled Algeria for 27 years or the troubled democracy now replacing it.

Muslim fundamentalists went on the warpath after his 1989 play Cocktail Khorotov was televised nationally and brought jokes about condoms into millions of Algerian homes.

After denunciations in the mosques, an anonymous letter read, "You are a Salman Rushdie. I am going to kill you."

Fellag remains unruffled and irrepressibly iconoclastic. His new play S.O.S. la bas (S.O.S. everything's fine) is sold out a month in advance.

"I try to touch our taboos, to scratch where it hurts a little," he told Reuters. "I often talk about sex because I know it's an enormous hang-up with us, and you can't get to the Algerian soul without touching it."

Drifting in and out of French and Algerian Arabic as Algerians often do, Fellag presents his version of an evening on state television, long the butt of jokes for its stale programming and strait-laced morality.

The newscaster keeps repeating, "everything is absolutely fine." But as the audience well knows, the economy is a mess, fundamentalism is on the rise and a nascent democracy sometimes looks like chaos.

Enter laughter. "A healthy society is one that laughs at itself," says Fellag.

Foreigners who do not know Algerians well often find them

dour, and Fellag comments, "Algerians have an enormous potential to laugh that never found an outlet. The political system was just too serious," referring to the one-party socialist state created at independence from France in 1962.

One videotaped scene depicts a fictional Algerian space programme in which the astronaut never gets off the ground — but is convinced an extraterrestrial creature has stolen his burrows.

Another shows Fellag the TV reporter wrapping up the day's fluctuations on "Wall Street" — an Algiers sidewalk crammed with black-market cassette players where the dinar is worth one-fifth its official value.

He wonders if Algeria is not becoming a banana republic — "without the bananas," a reference to the popular fruit's scarcity in Algerian stores.

An Algerian bewildered by the sudden outbreak of democracy seeks advice from his doctor.

"Every day there are strikes, and demonstrations, and a new political party. Everybody shouts all the time. Don't you have any pills to keep my head from spinning?" the patient complains.

"The only remedy is to form your own party," replies the doctor.

Fellag acts out courses for unemployed youths on how to pick up girls, and describes the hous-

ing minister's horror on seeing customs agents burn two million condoms.

"Every condom burned is another house to build," he laments, thinking of the country's demographic explosion.

Fellag shocked Algerians last year when he became the first to use his native Berber language on television. Berber, the original language of North Africa, has until recently been shunned in the media as part of an Arabisation policy.

There is one subject on which Fellag becomes quite serious — Islamic fundamentalists, the largest opposition force in Algeria, which he describes as "a threat to the development and balance of this society."

A hush overtakes the theatre when Fellag acts out the last scene, his own apocalyptic vision of a fundamentalist future.

"Did you hear they've bought the Berlin Wall at an auction and put it back up in Algeria — with men on one side and women on the other?"

The men prove unable to care for themselves. Garbage, filth and disease overtake them while the women build a prosperous community full of sweet-smelling gardens.

As the curtain falls, Fellag is on the floor crying out across the wall: "Come back, forgive us, you can do anything you want."

OPEN FORUM

Qualities of a good school

IT SEEMS that the only topic of conversation at the social gatherings of our educated society centers around school. Too many people have opinions about the schools their children attend as well as about schools they know nothing about directly. Unfortunately people are easily convinced by others and are influenced by the current fad in schools.

What characteristics do "good" schools have according to the majority of opinions?

First of all, a "good" school should be painfully strict and not allow for any human error on the part of students. A "good" school should be punitive and make students afraid to breathe without permission.

Second, a "good" school should not have any student with a grade average of less than 90 per cent. A "good" school teaches only those students who don't need teachers, but are self-motivated and learn by themselves.

Third, a "good" school does not have any physically, mentally or emotionally handicapped children. It also does not have any children from the lower socio-economic segment of society. A "good" school must give children a rosy picture of society and refuse to acknowledge the existence of anyone who is less than perfect. After all we live in such a perfect world.

Fourth, the "good" school fits everyone into the same mold and does not allow for any individuality or creativity. It is the aim of the "good" school to produce people who can't write their names on paper without instructions from above.

Fifth, the "good" school must have all the latest, modern, up-to-date facilities. Whether these facilities are being used or misused is not important.

Sixth, a "good" school must teach students to hate learning. Students in the "good" school must develop an aversion to books, so that no one ever reads a word after being graduated from university.

Seventh — probably the main objective of the "good" school is that all students must pass the Tawjihi examination with 95 per cent average or above. This is the easiest objective to achieve, since as mentioned before, only the top ten per cent of society is kept in these schools anyway.

If your child's school meets all of these criteria, it is definitely a "good" school, and I only hope that your child survives it willingly and safely.

Dr. Sue Dahdah
Director
The Abdul Hamid Sharaf School

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

'Some people are born with confidence'

By Arthur Max
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Some people are born with the belief that they are masters of their own lives. Others feel they are at the mercy of fate.

New research shows that part of those feelings are in the genes.

Psychologists have long known that people confident in their ability to control their destinies are more likely to adjust well to growing old than those who feel that they drift on the currents of fate.

Two researchers who questioned hundreds of Swedish twins report that such confidence, or lack of it, is partly genetic and partly drawn from experience.

They also found that the belief in blind luck — a conviction that coincidence plays a big role in life — is something learned in life and has nothing to do with heredity.

The research was conducted at the Karolinska Institute — better known as the body that annually

awards the Nobel Prize for medicine — by Nancy Pedersen of the Institute and Margaret Gatz, a professor of psychology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Their results were recently published in the United States in the Journal of Gerontology.

"The belief in your ability to control your life direction, or the belief in your own competence, is 30 per cent something you are born with," said Gatz, interviewed during a consultation visit to Sweden.

People who are confident of their ability to control their lives have an "internal locus of control," and have a better chance of being well adjusted in their old age, said Pedersen.

An "external locus of control," believing that outside forces determine the course of life, has been linked to depression in later years, she said.

"This is one of the windows on the aging process," said

Pedersen, who has published a series of studies on the genetics of personality traits based on interviews with twins. The study on life-control involved 554 pairs of twins.

"We are trying to understand what makes people different. What makes some people age gracefully and others have a more difficult time?" she said.

"Whether people feel independent is an important standard for service institutions and how they treat the elderly," she said.

The study showed that while people have an inborn predilection towards independence and self-confidence, about 70 per cent of this personality trait is affected by a person's environment and lifetime experiences.

Pedersen's studies, with various collaborators, probe the aging process by comparing sets of twins, both identical and fraternal, many of whom were separated at an early age.

The subjects were drawn from

a roster first compiled about 30 years ago registering all twins born in Sweden since 1886. The complete list, which was extended in 1971, has 95,000 sets of twins.

Pedersen says that studies of twins who were reared separately but have identical or nearly identical genes, compared with other twins reared together, can yield a unique measure of nature-vs-nurture in human development.

Earlier research by Pedersen showed that a variety of other characteristics are 30 per cent to 40 per cent determined by a person's genetic makeup, including many of those traits comprising what has become known as Type A behaviour.

The Type A personality — the hard-driving person who brings home work from the office, eats too fast, is impatient at traffic lights and makes a point of being on time — has been found to have a higher risk of heart disease before age 65.

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Oil powers Syria to first trade surplus for 30 years

Money inflow to IMF drops

with interest, though last November it reported that \$2.5 billion worth of interest was overdue. The fund's official "IMF Memorandum" said that its

The IEA said that net oil exports to the West from the Soviet Union and other Socialist bloc

A drought' last summer also distorted the energy picture in Europe. Hydroelectric output in France and Italy is down and lack of cooling water has hit nuclear plants in France, so that power stations' demand for heavy fuel oil has risen strongly.

Finance Minister Khaled Mahayni Monday presented parliament with a draft 1990 budget of 61.875 billion pounds (\$5.52 billion), up from 57 billion (\$5.08 billion) in 1989.

An austerity drive helped imports fall to 23.31 billion pounds (\$2.08 billion) from 24.95 billion (\$2.22 billion) in 1988.

which has hit some farm output and the damming of the Euphrates river by Turkey partly offset the rosy economic picture. Ankara is cutting the flow into

Syria of the euphrates, a major source of power and irrigation, for one month from January 13 to fill the Ataturk Dam in southeast Turkey.

Poll shows 'German unity'

DUESSELDORF (R) — Most West German business executives said they would prefer to invest in East Germany and Eastern Europe than in low wage European Community countries, according to an opinion poll. "More than half of West German companies would rather invest in East Germany than Ireland, Portugal or Greece," concluded the survey of 500 West German chief executives in the Wirtschaftswoche business weekly. West German industrialists have said they favour East Germany because it has the same language and culture. The poll, carried out by the Munich-based IFO Research Institute, said 53 per cent of the executives said they would rather put their money into East Germany.

Al Zubiadi visited New Delhi last week to inform Indian offi-

The new 500-kilometre railway line will connect Baghdad with the southern port city of Basra through key cities along the Tigris River.

Iraq has another railway line linking Basra to the capital along the Euphrates, but a second line is needed to meet the increasing imports through the Gulf ports.

KIO bought into Torras in 1986 and has made the group its main investment vehicle in Spain. Torras has expanded since from paper processing into a holding company. The group's shares were held by Torras's vice-president Javier De La Rosa. A KIO spokesman said De La Rosa could retain this block if the bid was successful.

Romanian and Western economists say the leu has been seriously overvalued for many years and a devaluation was in-

	Buy	Sell	French franc	116.6	117.8
U.S. dollar	659.0	665.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	464.3	458.8
Pound Sterling	1118.5	1129.7	Dutch guilder	351.3	354.8
Deutschmark	396.2	400.2	Swedish crown	108.1	109.2
Swiss franc	446.6	451.1	Italian lira (for 100)	53.4	53.9
			Belgian franc (for 100)	190.9	191.7

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7045/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1865/75	Canadian dollar
	1.6563/70	Deutschmarks
	1.8710/20	Dutch guilders
	1.4735/45	Swiss francs
	34.67/72	Belgian francs
	5.6275/6325	French francs
	1228/1229	Italian lire
	144.45/55	Japanese yen
	6.0500/0900	Swedish crowns
	6.4215/65	Norwegian crowns
	6.3970/4020	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	32.50/422.00	U.S. dollars

SYDNEY — Stocks ended slightly firmer with trading listless due to the absence of solid leads from overseas. The All Ordinaries Index rose 2.3 to 1,668.9.

TOKYO — Prices closed firmer but off their highs after profit-taking replaced bouts of index-linked buying by investment trust funds. Political uncertainty kept investors edgy. The Nikkei firmed 35.42 to 37,666.83.

HONG KONG — Improved sentiment led a small rally in share prices, with the Hang Seng Index gaining 36.22 to close at 2,792.89. Turnover rose to 753.57 million H.K. dollars.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed firmer but below their highs. Trading was active despite a number of technical breakdowns in the morning. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 6.47 points to close at 1,582.70.

BOMBAY — Shares ended lower even though state-owned investment trusts prevented the market from an early slump sparked by skirmishes on the India-Pakistan border.

FRANKFURT — Shares teetered after two days of sharp gains. The Dax Index touched a record high during the session before profit-taking cut the rally short. It closed at 1,937.72, down 1.71.

PARIS — Prices were weaker at midday, with investors cautious about the global interest rate outlook.

LONDON — Shares were broadly lower near the close after a dull day dominated by uncertainty over Wall Street and this week's U.S. treasury refunding. At 1610 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 21.2 at the day's low of 2,327.2.

NEW YORK — Blue chips fell to their day's lows in late-morning trading on light futures-related selling. The Dow was down 21 at 2,601.

Japan pushes for global projects fund

DAVOS, Switzerland (R) — Japanese businessmen urged Europe and the United States Monday to join a fund to prom-

like a second Panama Canal. The Japanese-backed Global Infrastructure Fund would deal with projects costing \$10 billion or more, its founders told the

U.S. enjoys first travel surplus

WASHINGTON (AP) — A record 38.3 million foreigners travelled to the United States last year, contributing to a \$450 million travel surplus, the first in U.S. history, the Commerce Department announced Monday.

"For the first time, the U.S. will enjoy a travel surplus of half a billion dollars," Undersecretary Rockwell Schnabel told a briefing. "This means that foreigners spent more money in the United States than U.S. citizens spent abroad."

The department's U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration said U.S. and foreign travellers spent

an identical \$8.7 billion in getting to their destinations.

But foreign visitors spent \$34.3 billion in the United States, while Americans spent \$33.9 billion abroad.

Wynegar said three million Japanese visited the United States, an 18 per cent increase over 1988, followed by 2.2 billion British tourists, a 23 per cent increase.

Schnabel said overseas markets with the largest potential for continued growth include Japan, Britain, Australia and Sweden.

"While arrivals from Japan and the United Kingdom seem to be slowing slightly, averaging nine per cent growth per year, growth from Australia and Sweden is

expected to average 14 per cent annually in 1990 and 1991," he said.

Wynegar said 10.4 million tourists from Mexico are expected this year, an 11 per cent increase over 1989, while 15.5 million are expected from Canada, a two per cent increase.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

© 1980 by Charles Schwartz, Inc.

HARRIS
1-10



"When I yelled at Stanley for being immature, he tattled on me to his mommiv."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DYLAL

EVER

YETHIG

TEENAB

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ALL " " " " " " " " " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BASIS ENACT RABBIT AFLOAT
Answer: What some parents experience when they have teen-age kids—“**ERATATION**”

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

SO WE'RE RIDING ALONG IN THE CAR, SEE...

JUST AS WE CAME TO A STOPLIGHT, A PICKUP TRUCK PULLS ALONGSIDE WITH A BIG DOG IN THE BACK...

THE STUPID DOG BARKED AT ME!

I WAS OFFENDED

YOU WOULD CARRY ON LAST NIGHT LIKE A FOOL!

IT POUNDS SOMETHING AWFUL!

DO YOU HAVE TO STOMP YOUR FEET?

THANKS FOR A FINE EVENING. WHAT DO WE YOU?

JUST A FEW WORDS TO MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST BLOKE IN THE WORLD

YOU STAY TILL CLOSING TIME, PET, AND I'LL SEE MYSELF HOME

SHE'S A LOVELY LASS

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THE SIMPSONS
SYNDICATION INTERNATIONAL, L.P.

Milan tennis tournament:

McEnroe argues with referee but completes doubles

MILAN, Italy (AP) — In a match punctuated by disputed calls, John McEnroe and Jakob Hlasek beat Charles Beckman and Luke Jensen in the Milan indoor tennis tournament Monday.

McEnroe, who was ejected last month from the Australian Open, repeatedly complained about some dubious calls during the second set but did not get any warnings or penalty points.

McEnroe displayed beautiful

erves and volleys in addition to some nervousness as he and his Swiss teammate won 6-3, 6-7, 6-1.

McEnroe and Hlasek are top-seeded in the doubles competition which awards a first prize of \$ 33,500.

Both McEnroe and Hlasek will also play singles in the \$540,000 Milan tournament which is part of the ATP tour.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TANNAN HERSCH
1980 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AKQ93 ♠AS ♣K109 ♠874

What is your opening bid?

A.—You have a problem opening one spade—how are we going to tell partner we have a 16-18 point hand that is essentially balanced? Our

choice would be to open one no trump, a bid that would be every-

one's choice were the black suits reversed.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AK6 ♠KQ10543 ♠85 ♠A4

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

A.—You have a hand worth almost eight playing tricks, and no simple overall call is going to show that many

potential winners. The way to describe your hand is to double now

and then bid hearts as cheaply as possible at your next turn.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠76 ♠3 ♠AQ1093 ♠KQ42

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—You have found an eight-card trump fit. Partner must have at least

a six-card suit to jump to three spades, and you have two spades

and a ruffing value. Bid four spades, even if partner's bid is merely

invitational. Four clubs only con-

fuses the issue.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ74 ♠7 ♠J8753 ♠1096

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—Your first obligation is to try to locate a 4-4 major fit, and the way to do that is to respond one spade. If

partner doesn't raise, you can take preference to diamonds at your next

turn.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ743 ♠J875 ♠7 ♠1096

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A.—You have already located an adequate trump suit. Since you have

the values for a forward-going bid, the obvious response is a raise to

two hearts, suppressing your five-card spade suit. Bid one spade initially and there is no way you can

express your liking for partner's hearts without an injudicious overbid.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠753 ♠64 ♠K75432 ♠84

Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?

A.—Regardless of whether your range is 21-22 or 23-24, it all depends on partner's hand. If opener

has a three-card holding in diamonds headed by the high honor, nine tricks could be easy. But if he

has only two diamonds, even eight tricks could be out of reach. In situations of this sort, go for the gusto!

Raise to three no trump.

THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kornworthy

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ACROSS

1 Jack or sledge

7 Blockade

10 Cat, subj.

14 Actor Peter

15 Start of tone

16 Preparation

17 Beethoven

18 Cape

21 Slicker

22 Fall behind

23 Sporting

24 Less fresh

27 Strawberry or traffic

30 Avoid

31 Faint

32 Certain

34 One

35 Break

36 Atlanta team

40 Morning

43 Make

45 Confound

46 Coup d'

47 Gilt

48 Conclusion

49 Stagnant

52 Folly to be

53 Yellow rain

55 Increased

56 Contender

58 TV editor Jack

60 2001

61 Rarely

62 Col. club

63 Recede

65 Signify

66 Renown

70 Small

71 Made amends

DOWN

1 Alligance

2 Having no key

3 Comic strip

4 Character

5 Calendar abbr.

6 House

7 Additions

8 Dublin control

9 Decapitates

10 Chooses

11 Usher's milieu

19 Attack verbally

20 Three

21 Match

22 Baseballer Mel

23 Means

24 "I" kick

25 Soul

26 Draw out

27 Scade

28 Europe e.g.

29 God of war

30 Persian

31 WC college

32 Leaped

33 Spenser

34 heroine

35 Bitter herb

36 Against

37 Speedy

38 Jai

39 Holy

40 V.P. Spino

41 V.P. Spino

42 Appendix

43 Eccentric

44 Lincoln

45 Switch

46 Alphabet

47 run

48 FDR's blue

49 eagle

50 eccentric

51 eccentric

52 eccentric

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W. Germany welcomes joint team with East

WEST BERLIN (AP) — West German sports officials Monday welcomed East German proposals for closer ties that could lead to a single German team for the 1996 Olympics and possibly even for the 1992 games in Barcelona.

"The way things are developing, we will surely have a joint team in 1996," said Manfred von Richthofen, president of West Berlin's sports federation.

West Berlin mayor Walter Momper echoed his statement, saying "with such a speed of developments, we could have a joint team already in 1992."

Willi Daume, president of the West German national Olympic committee, said West German sports officials were ready for quick talks with East German Olympic officials.

"Earlier, we were the only ones who wanted a joint team, the other side did not want it," Daume said in a statement.

"Things have changed now and this will make many things easier," Daume said.

Although he stopped short of calling directly for a single German team for the 1992 games, Daume said:

"A joint team could be very strong, but that also means that perhaps only 50 per cent of athletes would have a chance

among those who otherwise would have been in Barcelona," Daume said.

But, he said, "the parallels between the breathtaking political developments and the developments in sports cannot be ignored."

West German officials were reacting to statements over the weekend by leading East German sports officials and reported in the country's media.

Werner Neumann, spokesman for the interim leadership of the East German Sports Federation, predicted "something quite spectacular" for the 1992 Olympics.

"There will be two German teams, but they will march in under one flag," Neumann said.

Jochen Gruenewald, acting head of the country's sports federation, said over the weekend:

"We are certain to have a joint team at the 1996 Olympic Games."

Germany competed as a single team until 1964. At the 1968 games in Mexico City, there were two teams competing under one flag.

Hans Hansen head of the West German Sports Federation, said sports officials of the two countries would meet in April to discuss further cooperation.

EUROPEAN SOCCER:

Platini blamed for president's resignation

Reuter

THE surprise resignation of Juventus president Giampiero Boniperti was being blamed by the Italian media on Tuesday on the heavy criticism of him by French team coach Michel Platini.

Boniperti, under whose guidance Juventus won major honours throughout the 1970s and 1980s, resigned Monday, the day after Platini attacked him in a Turin newspaper for wasting the club's money on signing ineffective players.

Juventus, owned by Gianni Agnelli, won nine Italian championships, the UEFA Cup, the Cup Winners' Cup, the European Champions' Cup and the Intercontinental Cup under Boniperti. But they have not taken the championship since 1986.

Platini, a former Juventus star striker, said in a front-page interview in the Turin newspaper La Stampa, also owned by the Agnelli family, that Boniperti had wasted more than \$30 million of Agnelli money in recent years by signing the wrong players.

Italy's other leading newspapers were quick to blame Boniperti's resignation on Platini.

"Platini fires Boniperti," said the Rome newspaper Il Tempo. "It's all the fault of the stress caused by Platini," headlined Milan's Corriere Della Sera newspaper.

Il Corriere Dello Sport said Boniperti made his decision after Agnelli refused to intervene with his support when Platini launched his harsh criticism.

Boniperti, who is to be made an club honorary president, said: "There is no doubt that Platini was a great soccer player but as a manager, at least at the moment, he can't teach me anything."

In Spain, Real Madrid's leading challengers have all but given up hope of dethroning the champions and there is already media speculation that the coaches at Barcelona and Atletico Madrid will be replaced next season.

Barcelona's Dutch star Ronald Koeman, whose side lost ground in the championship race when beaten at Castellon on Sunday, has already written off their chances of winning the title.

He said there was little hope of Barcelona closing the six point gap on Real, and the Spanish Cup offered their only opportunity of glory this season.

Javier Clemente, coach of Real's city rivals Atletico Madrid who dropped to fourth place in the league also six points behind Real following their defeat in Seville, was not so despondent.

"It seems absurd to throw the towel in," he said. "We are fine in the league, and are fighting a good campaign."

But Jesus Gil, president of Atletico who have been eliminated from the UEFA and Spanish cups, was inconsolable at their league position and hinted that Clemente's future was in doubt.

"I am very disappointed with this season and this is a period of natural and logical reflection," said Gil, adding he would not make a decision on Clemente until March.

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff's position is also uncertain, with newspapers reporting that the Catalan club's president was talking to former coach Luis Aragonés about a possible return to the post he occupied in the 1987-88 season.

In the Netherlands, Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven have encountered more dressing room dissent with Danish international defender Ivan Nielsen saying he has played his last game for the club.

Nielsen, left out of the side 10 days ago, is refusing to speak to coach Guss Hiddink and is to have discussions with PSV general manager Kees Ploegman later this week.

PSV are in a state of disarray following personality clashes which have split the dressing room and seen performances taking a nosedive — a worrying prospect as they battle to clinch their fifth consecutive title and face a crunch European Cup tie with West Germany's Bayern Munich next month.

Marseille's bid to regain their French league title has not been helped by West German stopper Karl-Heinz Foerster's injury problems.

Foerster visits a Paris specialist on Tuesday to determine whether he needs another operation for a hairline fracture of the foot, an injury he sustained early in the season.

Without him, Marseille's defence has conceded 22 goals this season, twice as many as title rivals Bordeaux who lead the league by three points.

The club said Foerster was unlikely to be back in action until April.

UAE realistic about making WC finals debut

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates, whose football association was founded only 19 years ago, will not be expecting to progress beyond the opening round when they make their first appearance in the World Cup finals in June.

Lack of major international experience and an unexpected change of coaching staff in January, when Brazilian Mario Zagalo was dismissed and replaced by Polish coach Bernard Blautt, promise little more than brave resistance against West Germany, Yugoslavia and Colombia in Italy.

"We have to be realistic," said Blautt. "The UAE is not very experienced. It is going to be very

difficult to achieve any victory."

The UAE have achieved their greatest soccer ambition by claiming a place in the finals 50 years after soccer was first introduced by the British on sand pitches along the then crucial coast of the Gulf.

Although lush green grass pitches now dot the seven emirates that make up the UAE as a result of the oil boom in 1990s, there is little optimism among local soccer observers that the UAE can cause any upsets in the finals.

Soccer has made significant strides in recent years in the UAE where it has to compete with boat and camel racing as the major sporting attraction.

The national team received a heroes' welcome when they returned home last November from Singapore after clinching a trip to Italy from the final phase of the Asian qualifying tournament.

The players were well rewarded. They received cash and other prizes, including free airline tickets for several years, for qualifying.

It was not a happy ending however for Zagalo, the great Brazilian who was involved in all three of Brazil's World Cup triumphs as a player and as a coach. He was dismissed in January after upsetting the UAE administration with comment attributed to his interviews published abroad.

Blautt, 50, formerly assistant coach to the Polish national team during their last three World Cup campaigns, was brought in as a replacement and he began quickly to work on the five-month training plans for the team in preparation for the finals.

His team will play two friendlies against Egypt, Denmark and the Soviet Union in the UAE and then take part in the Gulf Cup championship in Kuwait between February 22 and March 9.

The Gulf Cup will pit the UAE against Oman, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. It will be very good experience of the sort of tight schedule which faces all the competing nations in the World Cup finals.

Agassi wins in Volvo tourney

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Andre Agassi, coming off a six-week training period in Florida, describes himself as "physically and spiritually renewed" as a tennis player.

"I closed off about February last year," he recalled Monday night after a 6-2, 6-7, 6-0 victory over India's Ramesh Krishnan in his first tournament match since 1990, at the \$225,000 Volvo San Francisco event.

"At the end of the match, I was just getting started. I could have gone another five sets," Agassi said.

He is seeded second in the tournament, behind Brad Gilbert. Christo van Rensburg, seeded fourth, won his first-round match against Marty Davis, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3. Other winners included number six Scott Davis, number eight Paul Annacone, Jimmy Arias and Dan

Goldie. Gilbert opens play Tuesday night, facing Gary Muller of South Africa.

Agassi said the 1989 season "fried" him, and his singles ranking fell to number eight from a glorious number three the year before when he was just 17 and America's brightest tennis hope.

On court, his results were poor, and his fleshy off-court behaviour was criticised by some. It bothered him and he couldn't keep his mind on his tennis, he says.

For the last six weeks in Florida, Agassi said, "I lifted weights, did long distance running and even stretching. I have been disciplining myself and growing up. I renewed myself."

"I haven't felt this good since the 1988 U.S. Open," he was a semifinalist in that open.

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S. Africa willing to give up race classification Pretoria to scrap emergency laws

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa said Tuesday it wanted to make further concessions to the country's black nationalist movement by scrapping the last vestiges of a three-year-old state of emergency as soon as possible.

In a special briefing to foreign correspondents, Foreign Minister P. W. Botha appealed to the African National Congress (ANC), which was legalised last week after a 30-year ban, to help Pretoria in getting rid of remaining emergency laws.

"I think it must be obvious that this government would wish to withdraw the last bit of the emergency situation as soon as possible," Botha said.

"That part of the regulations still in existence we would wish to withdraw as soon as possible and I really wish the ANC and others would help us here," he added.

In a bid to break South Africa's political deadlock, President F. W. de Klerk last week unveiled proposals to bring leaders of the black majority to the negotiating table.

As well as unbanning the ANC and scrapping emergency restrictions on media reporting and quoting anti-apartheid leaders, De Klerk said ANC figurehead Nelson Mandela would be released soon from a life jail term.

But the ANC said De Klerk had not gone far enough and Mandela was quoted by his wife Winnie as saying he would not leave prison until all emergency regulations had been lifted.

The ANC's hardline stance dampened hopes that the ANC and other black groups could soon start negotiating a post-apartheid constitutional future.

Botha said he was heartened by comments made by former ANC Secretary General Walter Sisulu, a close colleague of Mandela's, which indicate the first conciliatory steps by the guerrilla movement towards Pretoria's reform package.

Sisulu, who returned to South Africa Tuesday from a meeting of the ANC leadership in Stockholm, said in a U.S. television interview the ANC would try to ensure peace in the country's black townships.

"We have taken steps that should be appreciated by the regime in South Africa," Sisulu said Monday night.

"We pitched that there should be order, precisely because we knew that there would be elements whose aim is to disrupt and therefore use that as an excuse for not doing anything or for resisting the process," he said.

Botha said Sisulu's statement was helpful.

"It means that the ANC themselves realise that they wish to

introduce discipline, they are talking about order, about restructuring the ANC to ensure this," Botha said.

South Africa Tuesday gave its clearest indication yet that it was willing to give up race classification, the foundation of apartheid.

Constitutional Affairs Minister Gerrit Viljoen, the government's chief negotiator, said the 1950 population registration act would be up for negotiation in proposed talks on a shared future for blacks and whites.

The act, which classifies everyone by race at birth, forms the basis of South Africa's 40-year-old system of legislated racial discrimination, known as apartheid.

"It is accepted that the population registration act will have to lapse together with the present constitution. It has been accepted that the prescriptive and racial definition of groups is not acceptable."

"But the state president has made it clear that you cannot scrap it at this stage because then the definition of certain building blocks of the present constitution, which we accept will have to go, will then fall away," Viljoen said.

"Instead of a constitution where groups are the structural

element, we would also be prepared to consider alternative approaches where the provision of some kind of group security would be available to those who want it," he said.

Viljoen, a soft-spoken academic charged by De Klerk with drawing up a blueprint for power sharing between South Africa's five million whites and the majority of 27 million blacks, is aligned with the progressive flank in the cabinet.

His assurance that race classification, and therefore all apartheid, could be scrapped appeared to conflict with remarks by another minister Monday that residential segregation would remain.

Planning Minister Hennie Kriel said at a news conference that the division of society into groups was and would remain the government's policy.

Group has become a euphemism for race in government terminology. Senior officials acknowledge privately that group protection refers mainly to the maintenance of white exclusivity for those who want it.

Viljoen gave no details of the progress made so far in drawing recognised black leaders into talks with the white National Party government, which has been in power since 1948.

But he said talks on ending white domination would have to get under way and make significant progress before 1994, when the term of the current white-

dominated parliament expires. The next election would have to include blacks or at least be based on a firm agreement to draw them into government at the highest level.

"I think in 10 years time...the National Party would certainly not be in control, although I would not rule out a very meaningful future role for a National Party," he said.

Asked whether the National Party could rule in coalition with the African National Congress, however, he said: "I think my imagination would be rather heavily taxed to foresee that."

Viljoen said Mandela will be freed from prison "very soon," but the date hasn't been set yet.

"The date of his release is to be determined as a matter of urgency," Viljoen told a briefing for foreign journalists.

Both he and Foreign Minister P. W. Botha challenged a weekend report from Mandela's wife, Winnie, that the government was placing obstacles in the way of freedom for the African National Congress leader by not completely lifting the state of emergency and other restrictive laws.

"Don't believe people who say the government is the only obstacle," said Botha, who also said Mandela would be freed soon.

But Botha also repeated a statement made last Friday by De Klerk, that Mandela's safety and personal considerations were part of the reason for the delay.



ANC supporters demonstrate near the parliament building in Cape Town as President F.W. de Klerk lifts the ban on their organisation.

Bush to seek funds for weapons research

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush still considers the Soviet challenge "very much real" and during his upcoming three-day Western trip will defend his budget proposal to continue to pump billions of dollars into nuclear-weapons programmes, his spokesman has said.

Presidential Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said Bush's trip to California, Nebraska and Ohio will focus on defence issues.

"The president thinks it's important to talk to the American people about the changes that we're seeing" in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, Fitzwater said.

In a series of speeches and stops at military installations, the president will argue for his proposal to close or change dozens of military installations while continuing to commit resources to nuclear weapons programmes.

Despite the reduction of East-West tensions over the past year, "the Soviet challenge remains very much real," Fitzwater said.

"There have been reductions in troop strength. There are promises of other reductions that we haven't seen. But this is not a time to lay down our arms."

Bush's first stop Tuesday will be the army's national training centre at Fort Irwin in Barstow, California, where he will view combat exercises.

On Wednesday, he will tour the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California, where extensive research is underway on the administration's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Bush will also give a "broad-based discussion of defence policy" in a speech Wednesday to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, Fitzwater said. On Thursday, he will visit Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska.

"The president will stress his continued support for strategic modernisation. Despite the lessening of tensions in many areas of the world, the United States must continue to maintain a robust and credible nuclear deterrent," Fitzwater said.

Asked whether the president saw any irony in beginning his visit in California, the state that would be hardest hit by base-closings in his budget, the spokesman said:

"This trip represents several aspects of the changing world we find. One is the ability to make reductions in U.S. forces, to close down some bases that are obsolete and aren't needed."

"The fact that some of those are in California simply points out the changing nature of the defence situation," Fitzwater said.

The administration has called for the closure or realignment of more than 72 military installations and has called for ending operations at 12 U.S. installations overseas.

North appeals Iran-contra conviction

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. judge has ordered former President Ronald Reagan to give a videotaped deposition for the Iran-contra trial of his one-time national security adviser.

Reagan also was ordered Monday to turn over 33 entries from his diary immediately to the former aide, John Poindexter.

"Former President Reagan's testimony will be taken by way of a videotaped deposition" at an appropriate place and a date before the Feb. 20 start of Poindexter's trial, said U.S. District Judge Harold Greene.

Poindexter worked for Reagan as chief of the National Security Council, where he was the boss of Oliver North, who was convicted for his part in a coverup of the secret sales of weapons to Iran and the subversion of funds to support Nicaraguan rebels.

Both he and Poindexter have maintained they were only following instructions from superiors in the White House.

North is asking a federal appeals court to reverse his convictions on grounds that Reagan should have been called as a trial witness.

In arguments Tuesday before the U.S. circuit court of appeals, North's lawyers also were expected to assert that North's prosecution was tainted by the former White House aide's immunised testimony to Congress.

Reagan promptly invoked executive privilege to avoid turning portions of his diaries over to Poindexter. "Former President Reagan hereby asserts his claim to the constitutionally protected privacy of his diaries," said Theodore Olson, one of Reagan's

attorneys.

The administration of President George Bush, who was vice president throughout the Iran-contra affair, has until Friday to invoke executive privilege on the matter of videotaped testimony.

In Los Angeles, Reagan spokesman Mark Weinberg refused comment on the order for a videotaped deposition, but said the former president was invoking executive privilege regarding the diary entries to give his lawyers time to "evaluate the need" for them.

Invoking executive privilege will enable Reagan to gain access to a secret filing with Greene in which Poindexter told why he needs the diaries.

North was convicted on May 4, 1989, of obstructing Congress, altering and destroying National Security Council documents and accepting an illegal gratuity.

The obstruction charge involved a 1985 shipment of Hawk missiles to Iran, while the documents that were destroyed showed North's assistance to the Nicaraguan contras. The gratuity was a \$13,800 home security system which North accepted from Richard Secord, who North enlisted to run supplies to the rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government.

Philippine army rebels tell U.S. to keep out of conflicts

MANILA (R) — Philippine army rebels trying to overthrow President Corason Aquino said Tuesday they were not enemies of the United States and told Washington to stay out of the country's internal conflicts.

The rebels, in a statement circulated in military headquarters in Manila, also called on the international community to withdraw their support of the Aquino government, calling it incompetent and corrupt.

"Mrs Aquino will definitely not be able to finish her term...as for our time frame, just wait and see. It is most quiet before the storm unleashes its full fury," they declared.

The warning was delivered a day after defence officials increased rewards for the capture of leaders of December's failed army revolt and urged troops to report to superiors any unusual activities by fellow soldiers.

The rebels issued the statement in the name of the reform the armed forces movement and the soldiers of Filipino people, two factions that nearly toppled Aquino in the sixth and most serious coup attempt against her in her four years in office.

The U.S. Air Force helped

repel the December revolt by launching intimidation flights over Manila after rebel planes bombed Aquino's presidential palace.

"The U.S. government will be solely responsible for whatever actions we might consider to take against them," the rebels said.

"For as long as they leave the Filipino alone in settling their own internal problems, they are not our enemy. It will be U.S. government's own choosing if they want to be considered an 'enemy,'" they added.

"(We) see no reason why we cannot continue to have 'open ties' with the U.S. government as long as the U.S. government stops treating the Philippines as if it is still its colony."

Washington has threatened to withdraw its aid to Manila if army rebels succeed in overthrowing Aquino, who has called the rebels the Philippines' most serious threat to democracy.

"We have no intention of running the country for a long period of time. We are but a tool of transition," the rebels said, referring to Aquino's charge that they planned to install a military dictatorship.

Old guard rivals fade away as Japan campaign heats up

TOKYO (R) — Far from the flag-waving crowds and loud-speaker vans of a noisy elections campaign, some of Japan's best known politicians have quietly retired, stars of a bygone age of bitter feuds within the ruling party.

For two decades, the heated rivalry between former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and Kakuei Tanaka provided the main drama in Japanese politics.

Last month, when the government dissolved the lower house to make way for Feb. 18 elections, Fukuda and Tanaka relinquished their seats and left the stage together.

So did Zenko Suzuki, a low-profile premier who quit the post in 1982 in the vain hope of putting an end to the vicious in-fighting between the Fukuda and Tanaka factions.

There was an era when government politicians struggled for power within the Liberal Democratic Party itself, rather than against a divided, ineffectual opposition.

The LDP's decline since the Recruit shares-for-favours scandal and the introduction of a deeply unpopular sales tax last year has muted the vicious infighting, at least for a time.

In the bad old days, one party faction would back an opposition no-confidence move against the leader of another faction, or pull out

cabinet ministers from under a rival premier.

Although the LDP is expected to squeak in with a simple majority in the new 512-member assembly, the party can ill afford a resurgence of the internecine battles that erupted again and again in the past 20 years.

With the rise in the early 1970s of Fukuda, an elite bureaucrat, and Tanaka, a self-made construction entrepreneur with little formal education, LDP factions became increasingly defined by allegiance to a particular boss rather than by principles or policies.

Factional alliances were the only thing that really mattered in forming governments and hence in Japanese political life, since the LDP had held power uninterruptedly since 1953.

More money poured into individual factions, rather than directly into central LDP coffers.

Fukuda, prime minister from 1976 to 1978, left parliament in style last month as a respected elder statesman, passing on his safe seat to son Yasuo and control of his faction to former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe.

Suzuki too passed his constituency to a son and will not be seen again in the corridors of Japan's diet. Former Finance

Minister Kiuchi Miyazawa now heads Suzuki's old faction.

There were no LDP send-offs for Tanaka, who served as premier from 1972 to 1974 and is credited with normalising Japan's relations with China.

Tanaka relinquished party membership after his 1976 arrest in a scandal over payoffs by the Lockheed aircraft company. He suffered a severe stroke in 1985 and never reappeared in parliament.

There were no heirs, not even a secretary, to inherit Tanaka's powerful vote-getting machine in his native Niigata prefecture, which guaranteed him a seat in the lower house even after he was convicted in 1983 of taking bribes from Lockheed.

Higher courts have yet to rule on the appeal by the ailing but still defiant man once known as the "shadow shogun."

His stroke followed an in-house coup when Noboru Takeshita usurped his place as head of the LDP's biggest faction. Tanaka was left half-paralysed and speech-impaired.

Takeshita himself resigned as premier last year over the Recruit scandal.

Takeshita and Abe, Fukuda's faction heir, have cemented a powerful alliance that analysts say gives them control over who becomes prime minister.

C8 COLUMN

Rebel priest excommunicated

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Archdiocese of Washington says Roman Catholics who belong to a dissident black priest's break-away African-American Catholic Congregation face excommunication. The announcement Monday follows the Rev. George A. Stallings' public break from the church. "By his public declaration that he has separated himself from the church and by his renunciation of church teaching, Father Stallings has excommunicated himself," the archdiocese said in a statement by Vicar General William Kane. "Any Catholic who would knowingly and willingly renounce his or her Catholic faith to become a full and active member of Father Stallings' congregation would also incur automatic excommunication," the statement said. Excommunication, which excludes a person from the sacraments and rights of the church, is the Roman Catholic Church's most powerful weapon against defiant members. The statement said members of Stallings' congregation could resume participation in the Catholic Church only if they go to confession and do penance. Stallings publicly criticised the church's treatment of blacks last summer when he formed his Imani Temple, an independent congregation to break all ties with the Vatican last week. On Sunday, Stallings said his congregation of several hundred followers would observe new church laws. Women would be allowed to be ordained as priests, he said, and his congregation will allow the practice of birth control and abortion. In addition, he said he would permit "option of celibacy, which means our priests will be able to decide whether or not they want to marry."

Taiwan cracks deaf-mate gang

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan police have smashed a gang of more than 20 people, all of whom are deaf or mute, suspected of involvement in a number of robberies and thefts, the official Central News Agency said Tuesday. The gang included a Japanese and a black American, the agency said, but it only named three of the Chinese members. Police confiscated bank documents showing the gang had assets of some 2.1 million Taiwan dollars (\$83,500). Early last month, police cracked an illegal gambling ring made up of scores of deaf-mutes from all over Taiwan. The group, taking bets on the traditional Chinese game of Mahjong, used a facsimile machine to circulate details of the game. Individual bets ran as high as \$15,000, police said.

10-year-old interviews Cruise

NEW YORK (AP) — Ten-year-old Sarah Lawing went where no other journalist had gone before in obtaining an interview with Tom Cruise on the set of "Day of Thunder," his new movie about a race car driver. When she heard that Cruise was filming the movie near her family's farm in Long Creek, North Carolina, the reporter for "Long Creek Elementary School's News and Neighbors" wrote the actor seeking an interview, according to this week's People magazine. The star of Born on the Fourth of July, Rain Man and Top Gun had turned down previous interview requests, but gave Sarah her first. Her only previous story, about "a really big sawflake," had not required an interview.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	4 26	6 43
ATHENS	13 27	19 46
BAHRAIN	17 25	19 38
BANGKOK	24 75	28 84
BELGRADE	24 75	28 84
BOMBAY	24 75	28 84
CAIRO	16 41	18 51
CHICAGO	-01 30	11 44
COPENHAGEN	05 41	10 48
DUBLIN	03 27	12 54
GENEVA	05 41	10 48
HONG KONG	13 27	19 46
ISTANBUL	04 29	09 46
JAKARTA	24 75	28 84
LOS ANGELES	14 44	18 51
MADRID	05 41	10 48
MEXICO	18 24	28 84
MOSCOW	-08 16	-01 30
NEW DELHI	09 28	32 41
NEW YORK	05 41	10 48
PARIS	04 15	15 59
PERMUT	01 14	16 64
SYDNEY	22 71	28 84
TOKYO	09 28	32 41
VIENNA	00 32	10 50

M - Indicates missing information.